Man arrested for allegedly using illegal gill-net. » PAGE 5

PSS stops probe after San Nicolas resigns. » PAGE 16

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 253 | MONDAY DECEMBER 22, 2014 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

Cop fatally shoots girlfriend, self

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Police detectives gather in front of Mailman and Kara law offices and Shenanigan Restaurant in Garapan shortly after the shooting incident Friday morning.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An on-duty police officer fatally shot his girlfriend with his service gun inside a law office in Garapan before shooting himself in the head Friday morning.

The tragic incident stunned the community and the Department of Public Safety as it happened a few days before Christmas. A similar shooting involving another police officer and his girlfriend also occurred in Garapan in January 2013.

Joanna T. Vitug, 30, was pronounced dead by Dr. Gregory Kotheimer at 11:55am, while Police Officer 1 Christopher S. Santos, 24, was pronounced

See COP on Page 4

» Cop assigned at governor's residence that morning

» DPS chief: Similar incident happened in 2013

Santos

Vitug

Deepest fish found 5 miles down in Marianas Trench

By MICHAEL WINTER
USA TODAY

Oceanographers have discovered a new species of fish at a record depth of 5 miles.

The ghostly snailfish has translucent, winglike fins, a tail like an eel's and "a head resembling a cartoon dog," said Alan Jamieson, from Oceanlab at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

They live in complete darkness, near-freezing temperatures and wa-

See FISH on Page 4

Rhythm 'N Harmony rules CNMI Got Talent

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 18-member a capella ensemble Rhythm 'N Harmony out of Marianas High School won all major awards of last Friday's 2014 CNMI Got Talent at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan Magellan.

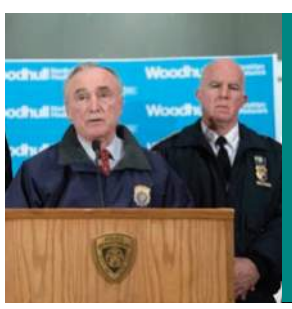
The MHS Glee Club, led by artistic and music director Paul Dujua, took home the grand prize and best group awards as well as the coveted Gover-

See GOT TALENT on Page 4

MARK RABAGO

Marianas High School's Rhythm 'N Harmony swept all major awards in Friday's 2014 CNMI Got Talent at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan Magellan. The MHS Glee Club is seen here posing with Bridge Capital, LLC principal and CEO John K. Baldwin, vice chair and director of business development Shawn A. Scott, and COO Jody Jordahl after receiving one of their award checks. Also in photo is Gov. Eloy S. Inos' daughter Tina.

INSIDE



NATION
A gunman shoots dead two officers in retaliation for the chokehold death of Eric Garner.
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WORLD
An Australian woman is charged with the murder of eight children.
» PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE
Boxing great Muhammad Ali is hospitalized with a mild case of pneumonia.
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GOT A NEWS TIP?
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EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Wiseman: NMI govt immune from suit over defective ramp

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has dismissed the claims against the CNMI government in a lawsuit filed by a couple over the husband's injuries when his motorized wheelchair suddenly tipped backwards on a defective ramp at their house.

Wiseman granted the government's motion to dismiss James and Linda Bowie's claims for negligence and violation of the Commonwealth Building Safety Code.

Wiseman, however, denied the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s motion to dismiss the couple's claims for negligence and violation of the Commonwealth Building Safety Code against the agency.

The judge also denied NMHC's motion for summary judgment as to the couple's claims for negligence, breach of contract, and violation of the CNMI Building Safety Code.

A status conference was set last Thursday for the judge to set a trial date and other case management schedules.

According to court records, James Bowie is confined to a motorized wheelchair and requires a ramp for access to their house. In order to perform construction work on their home and improve the wheelchair ramp, the Bowies first applied for a grant with NMHC.

Having received grant approval from NMHC, the Bowies hired Apex Construction Inc. to perform the necessary construction work on their home.

Apex Construction, instead of reducing the slope of the ramp, increased it. The resulting ramp failed to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

As a result, James Bowie suffered injuries when his wheelchair suddenly tipped backwards while using the defective ramp. The Bowies complain that NMHC and CNMI approved the building plans despite knowing that the wheelchair access ramp was too steep.

NMHC, in particular, advised the Bowies that the defective wheelchair ramp could not and would not be corrected. NMHC held up additional funding for necessary repairs to the Bowie residence's electrical wiring unless the Bowies approved the defective wheelchair access ramp.

The Bowies filed their first amended complaint in August 2013. They cited five causes of action claiming damages, court costs, attorney's fees, and repairing the ramp to a safe and lawful condition.

The Bowies directed their negligence and violation of Building Safety Code claims against all defendants. They are suing Apex Construction for breach of contract and violation of the Consumer Protection Act. They are suing the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. for breach of contract. The CNMI and NMHC moved to dismiss claims against them.

NMHC also moved for summary judgment as to all plaintiffs' claims.

Wiseman heard the motions on Oct. 10, 2013.

In his order, Wiseman ruled that the CNMI should be afforded statutory immunity under the Commonwealth Building Safety Code because of reasonable inferences from Bowies' alleged facts in their complaint.

Wiseman said the Building Safety Division's safety rules and regulations mandate that a person obtain the required permit prior to altering a building.

The judge noted that plaintiffs altered their building when Apex Construction altered their wheelchair ramp.

Wiseman said Mr. Bowie used the altered wheelchair ramp.

Wiseman said these are sufficient facts that enable the CNMI to assert the statutory immunity defense under the Building Safety Code.

With respect to NMHC's motion to dismiss, Wiseman said the Bowies' claim is legally sufficient because it is possible that NMHC is a person who committed the violation in question.

Wiseman said it is possible that plaintiffs can show that NMHC caused to permit violations of the Building Safety Code.

On NMHC's motion for summary judgment, Wiseman said NMHC failed to satisfy its initial burden in light of the lack of a developed factual record.

See WISEMAN on Page 4

High surf and small craft advisories

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, strong winds behind a cold front near Japan have produced a swell that is moving across the local area. This north to northwest swell will be large enough to produce hazardous surf on north facing reefs until noon today.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until noon today. Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet will persist along north facing reefs through this morning. Surf is expected to fall below hazardous levels this afternoon.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6am Wednesday. East winds of 20 to 25 knots and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft for the next several days.

The general public is being advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and west facing reefs, as rip currents are life threatening. ***(HSEM)***

Merry Christmas

December 25, 2014
Brunch: 11: 00 am –2:00 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Adult = $25.00 (local discount)
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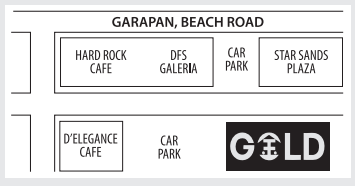

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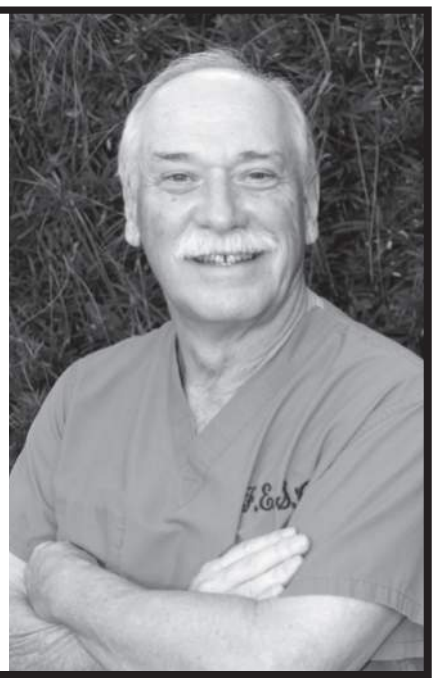

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AmeriCorps program in need of more applicants

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI Public School System's AmeriCorps Program needs more student applicants in order to fulfill its student membership requirement, according to program director Victoria S. Nicholas.

Every year 60 eligible high school students from both public and private high schools are recruited to provide tutoring services in all the public elementary and junior high schools in the CNMI under the program.

"We currently do not have sufficient applicants to fill all 60 slots so we are encouraging all high school students who are 17 years of age or older, a U.S. citizen or citizen of FSM, RMI or Palau or a legal U.S. permanent resident with a minimum GPA of 2.50 to please apply! We are looking for mature, responsible and highly motivated high school students who believe in public service as a means to make a true meaningful difference in his or her community," Nicholas said. "For this year, the application deadline is a rolling one. Basically, this means that we will be accepting applications until all 60 student member slots are full."

Accepted applicants will begin the program with a Pre-Service Orientation. The three-day mandatory intensive training program will cover the history, importance and leaders of community service in our nation; the roles, responsibilities and duties of being an AmeriCorps member; completing enrollment documents; the alumni experience; basics of tutoring in reading at the elementary and junior high school level; aid and CPR certification.

The program's main purpose, she said, is to increase reading levels for public school students from Kindergarten through 8th grade who are performing at the bottom quadrant of reading for their grade level.

"The program selects 60 of the highest qualified high school students from both public and private high schools to provide peer-to-peer cross-age tutoring services at all the public and junior high schools in the CNMI. These high school students are known as AmeriCorps Student Members."

Members also participate in a myriad of events for the Martin Luther King Day of Service, as well as PSS-wide functions.

Nicholas noted that members of the program do not only receive the feeling of gratitude and praise of tutoring a struggling student, but also reap the benefits of membership that include obtaining professional on-the-job experience, working toward education award of $2,000, and a monthly stipend of $250.

Interested students can apply with the program by contacting either Nicholas or the program's administrative assistant, Elizabeth B. Aguon, at telephone

See AMERICORPS on Next Page

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Saipan Casino Commission adopts bylaws

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Casino Commission on Friday adopted its bylaws during a meeting among the four commissioners at the Governor's Office conference room on Capital Hill.

Commissioner Juan Sablan said he and fellow commissioners Alvaro Santos, Joseph Reyes, and Justin S. Manglona unanimously approved the adoption of the bylaws, which will now be published in the *Commonwealth Register* for comments.

Sablan said the Saipan Casino Commission also adopted the position of executive director during its Friday meeting. The next step would now be to advertise that position. Salary for the executive director will depend on the experience of the candidate and must not exceed the government ceiling of $50,000 per annum.

Meantime, Santos said the commission is slowly organizing itself so it can regulate the island's casino industry.

"We're pretty much busy getting ourselves organized, preparing to hire staff, and getting an office. We're getting started with rules and regulations of the casino commission."

He said the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos recently offered the Saipan Casino Commission two building up on Capital Hill where they could set up their operations.

"We've already looked at it and plan to renovate it."

Santos said once the executive director position is filled, they would then start hiring other positions for the commission.

"Everything follows after we hire the executive director as administrative staff. In the future we will be getting and recruiting other enforcement staff," he said.

Sablan said the commission is "practically in working mode right now" with all four commissioners meeting at least four hours a day.

"We're meeting everyday and making policies and regulations for the casino commission."

Tinian has no representative in the commission, as Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz's nominee hasn't been acted on yet. Most probably, the commission will have to wait for the swearing in of Tinian mayor-elect Joey P. San Nicolas to have its fifth member.

Sablan said that one of the buildings being offered by the government is the former Credit Union building. "Hopefully we're going to get that renovated."

Sablan said there is also discussion that poker, e-gaming, and e-lottery should also fall under the purview of the Saipan Casino Commission.

"It's logical to transfer because we're the regulatory body for casino already," he said, adding that the Legislature would still need to amend the law creating the commission to make that happen.

Under the Saipan casino law, the Saipan Casino Commission is supposed to come up with regulations and regulate the casino industry, among other things. Best Sunshine International Ltd. won the exclusive license to build a casino on Saipan.

GOT TALENT

From Page 1

nor's Choice award after wowing the crowd with its mash-up of Christmas songs *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *Do They Know it's Christmas Time*, *We Three Kings*, *One Small Child*, *Let it Go*, and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* with a sampling of *Turn Down for What* for good measure.

"Words could not explain exactly how happy I am for winning all three awards. I was definitely mind blown so to speak. It was totally unexpected. And is indeed a great honor. I always tell my glee to perform at their best no matter what the circumstance is. And that it's not all about the winning. It's about bringing the best we can," said Dujua after the show.

The competition was again organized this year by international investment banking and asset management company Bridge Capital, LLC.

Rhythm 'N Harmony is made up of Noel Jimenez, Anne Cruz, Diane Hermogenes, Emily Jones, Joselle Reyes, Jennella Nelmida, Annabel Manzo, Shaina Santiago, Paula Gozon, Grace Catalma, Shandel Cayabyab, Leonard Manuel, John Huevos, Jameson Kui Lee, Neil Fama, Miguel Aninon, and Roland Balajadia, John Cano with alumni Vivien Viernes and Rolando Sangalang.

Jimenez and Cruz are the glee club's president and vice president, respectively.

In all, the group pocketed $3,5000 in winnings: $1,500 for the grand prize, $1,000 for the best group, and another $1,000 for the Governor's Choice award. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' daughter, Tina Inos, bestowed the latter award.

Dujua said this is the first time Rhythm 'N Harmony actually won the grand prize alone. Three years ago they did top CNMI Got Talent, albeit tied with another performer.

"In 2011 we won the a grand prize tied with violinist Allan Tudela. In 2012 we were first place runner up, and in 2013 the judges made us break a tie with Bernice and we finished with the first mini grand prize and was also awarded best group award," he said.

The Bernice he was referring to is 8-year-old singing sensation Bernice Sabino, the 2013 CNMI Got Talent grand prize winner who, along with Tudela, guest-performed during Friday's talent competition, which was hosted by funnyman Jojo Camacho.

Dujua said the $3,500 they won will be used for their expenses, as they once again will be competing in the 2015 Tumon Bay Music Festival next year.

Finishing with the mini grand prize and $1,200 is Out of the Ordinary made up mostly of Umang Glee Club members from Koblerville Elementary School, while violinist Kevin Liang of Saipan Community School bagged the 2nd mini grand prize and went home $1,000 richer.

The MHS Dolphin PEP Band, (1st runner-up, $500), D.J. Santiago (2nd runner-up, $400), Glushko Ballerinas (3rd runner-up, $300), Angela Barbo (4th runner-up, $200), and Nikkie Ayuyu (5th runner-up, $100; and best from Tinian, $500) close out the winners of the 2014 CNMI Got Talent.

Serving as judges for the evening were *Marianas Variety* publisher Laila Boyer, congressman-elect Angel Demapan, Senate President and lieutenant governor-elect Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan), Associate Justice Perry Inos, and Evert van der Maas, the son of Marianas Business Plaza owner Eric van der Maas.

COP

From Page 1

dead by Dr. John Tudela at 12:56pm.

Vitug and Santos have one child together. Vitug has three other children.

Police said the Department of Public Safety's Dispatch received a call about a shooting incident at the Mailman & Kara law offices in Garapan at about 11:08am.

Police officers that responded to the scene immediately secured the area and came upon two victims of gunshot wounds. Both Vitug and Santos were rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center, where they succumbed to their injuries.

It was learned that Santos had a verbal altercation with Vitug inside the law office, where she worked, prior to the shooting.

According to witnesses' accounts, Santos and Vitug were arguing when Santos pulled out his DPS-issued firearm and shot Vitug in the head before shooting himself in the head as well.

Saipan Tribune learned that both lawyers Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara were inside the office when the shooting happened.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Kara but she has yet to respond to the email as of press time.

Santos has been with DPS for four years. His last assignment was with Uniform Services.

DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero said DPS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation processed the crime scene and collected evidence.

At a news briefing on Friday at 4pm, Deleon Guerrero said DPS will release more information once they conclude their investigation.

He extended his condolences to the families of Vitug and Santos, saying the incident came at the worst time for both families as the holiday season is approaching.

"Today is a sad day for the men and women for the Department of Public Safety," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said they first received information that the shooting happened at a building that houses the Shenanigan Restaurant. Police later learned that it actually occurred on the second floor of a building where the Shenanigan Restaurant is located. The restaurant is on the first floor, while the law office is on the second floor.

"We express our deepest regrets to both families and also to the members of the community for this unfortunate incident," Deleon Guerrero said.

He revealed that Santos was assigned that morning to perform guard duties at the governor's residence.

He said Santos had left the governor's residence after consulting with his supervisor to buy some items.

Deleon Guerrero said he believes that Santos left to buy drinks because he does have a small refrigerator at the guard's post.

The commissioner said Santos never returned since his supervisor assumed duties at that particular location.

Deleon Guerrero said they have yet to clarify with forensics whether or not the 9mm handgun issued to Santos was indeed used.

"We suspect that was the weapon utilized in the course of the incident," he said.

The commissioner said they will certainly request the attorney general to authorize an autopsy on the remains of Santos and Vitug. He said the final decision whether or not an autopsy is needed rests with the OAG and not DPS.

Police immediately blocked the roads in the vicinity of the crime scene and rerouted the traffic flow. An ambulance was seen in front of the entrance to Mailman and Kara law office past noon.

Investigators immediately cordoned the area as many bystanders, including tourists, flocked to the place.

Until DPS Commissioner Deleon Guerrero disclosed initial information about the incident past 1pm, rumors and wrong information swirled all over the island and on social networks about what happened.

DPS police information officer Travis Hurst conducted a press briefing shortly after talking with Deleon Guerrero.

One bystander even stated that two people were shot and that the gunman was still on the loose and that officers were hunting him in Garapan.

Another worried woman rushed to the scene after getting the wrong information. She stated that she has a family member who works at Shenanigans and that she heard the shooting happened in the restaurant.

Shenanigan Restaurant staff did not hear the gunshots. The employees only learned about the shooting when police officers arrived. At that time, there was no customer in the restaurant.

Deleon Guerrero said he has been communicating with Maisie N. Tenorio, the executive director of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence, as the coalition provides some counseling assistance. Deleon Guerrero said the coalition did the same thing during the last shooting incident in 2013.

The commissioner was referring to an incident on Jan. 12, 2013, when Police Officer 1 Josef Deleon Guerrero fatally shot himself after shooting his girlfriend near True North Bar and Grill in Garapan. The girlfriend survived. Just like Santos, Josef Deleon Guerrero was also police officer 1 and 24 years old.

Commissioner Deleon Guerrero said Tenorio offered to provide some assistance and that is something that they're currently coordinating.

"Whenever an incident like this occurs and it involves an officer, we would make sure that proper counseling assistance is offered to them, at the very least to those primary responders," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said DPS does not have a readily available counselor.

"This is quite shocking to a lot of officers and employees of the department and to me personally…" he said.

When asked if DPS will revisit the department's recruitment process for officers considering that the two shooting cases involved young officers, Deleon Guerrero said one of the things that they try to emphasize to personnel is that if they do detect an officer that may be in need of attention because of what's happening within their relationship, they must notify the management right away.

Deleon Guerrero said the policy of the department is that whenever someone is either accused or suspected of having even a minor domestic dispute, they would recall that officer's firearm in order to prevent any incident from occurring.

He said in Friday's incident, based on his conversation with the police director, it was something that the officers never saw coming.

"This is going to be a lesson learned from a lot of different reasons. We want to know what are the things that triggered this incident, triggered the occurrence of this incident and to take whatever actions are necessary in order for us to prevent another incident from happening," the commissioner said.

FISH

From Page 1

ter pressures equal to 1,600 elephants standing on the roof of a small car, as New Scientist explains.

The snailfish were found by a Scottish-built robotic craft during a month-long expedition of the Mariana Trench, in the western Pacific Ocean, led by University of Hawaii scientists. Several other previously unknown species were discovered, and new depth records were set for three other varieties. Another first: footage of a living, shrimp-like "supergiant" amphipod.

The team had made 13 previous robotic dives into the trench, where depths can reach 33,000 feet. The latest search, which ended Dec. 9, was "the big one," Jamieson wrote in a post explaining the expedition and why deep-sea exploration must continue.

As much as we are excited about finds such as these, we are typically chased up by people who ask "why do we bother?", and add rather deflating comments such as "what benefit does this have to society?"

In response I explain that such exploration benefits responsible stewardship of the oceans.

WISEMAN

From Page 2

The judge noted that the parties have yet to conduct formal discovery and there have been no interrogatories taken, depositions taken, or requests for admissions responded to.

"Without adequate discovery, and at this stage in the litigation, these are the factual determinations that this court cannot decide on a summary judgment motion," said Wiseman in denying NMHC's motion for summary judgment.

Attorney Joseph E. Horey is counsel for the Bowies. Attorney Mark A. Scoggins is counsel for NMHC, while assistant attorney general David Lochabay appeared for the CNMI government.

AMERICORPS

From Page 3

number (670) 237-3293 or via e-mail at victoria.nicholas@cnmipss.org or elizabith.aguon@cnmipss.org

"We also welcome in-person inquiries at our program office located at PSS Central, second floor, north of the Marianas High School campus," she said.

Man arrested for allegedly using illegal gill-net for fishing

Division of Fish and Wildlife Investigation Unit officers arrested last week a man who was allegedly using an illegal gill-net to fish at a Lau Lau Beach dive spot.

Ignacio C. Villagomez, 39, was arrested for violating fishing regulations. The offense carries a penalty of imprisonment for not more than 30 days or a fine of not more than $2,000, or both.

At a bail hearing last week, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $100 cash bail and $900 unsecured bond.

Wiseman prohibited Villagomez from fishing and ordered him to stay away from the ocean during his pre-trial release.

The judge suggested to the Office of the Attorney General to just summons the defendant to appear in court instead of serving an arrest warrant.

Fish and Wildlife Investigation Unit law enforcement officer Erwin T. Flores stated in his report that a conservation officer received information on Oct. 27, 2014, from a concerned citizen regarding illegal gill-net fishing at the Lau Lau Beach.

Flores said that, according to the concerned citizen, Villagomez was seen several times between 5pm and 7:30pm using a gill-net without procuring a special permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Pursuant to the law, gill-net fishing is only authorized for special circumstances such as church village fiestas and only upon applying for a special permit from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary.

Flores said during investigation and surveillances, Villagomez was observed fishing using gill-net on several occasions at Lau Lau Beach.

Flores said Villagomez was also seen bringing the fish he caught to a store in San Vicente. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

IF MEDICARE PROVIDER AGREEMENT IS TERMINATED

CHC could lose $22M a year

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center stands to lose about $22 million a year if its Medicare provider agreement is terminated, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna.

It is therefore critical for the corporation to come up with a plan of correction that will be acceptable to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services because if CHC loses its provider agreement, it will lose funding not just for the hospital but also the dialysis center because it is "hospital-based," Muna said.

CHC will then have to rely on funding generated through its patients, where patients pay for the hospital's overall operations, similar to what the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. operations goes through.

Muna said that losing CMS reimbursements will have a big impact on the hospital, considering the low amount of local appropriations being allocated to CHC.

CHCC received only $1.22 million for fiscal year 2015 through local appropriations.

Aside from losing Medicare funding, CHC will also lose Medicaid funding and people would lose their jobs, Muna said.

As of now the hospital is tirelessly working on addressing its plan of correction that is due for submission today, Monday, she said.

The plan of correction is intended to guide the Commonwealth Health Center in coming up with ways to fix the six deficiencies cited by CMS. CMS gave the corporation up to Dec. 22, 2014, to come up with the plan of correction. If not, the hospital's condition of participation in Medicare will be terminated on April 3, 2015.

"There are many factors involved in changing a 'system' and the most significant is that caring for our patients should be of the highest priority. From the medical staff, the nursing staff, and the administrative staff, we need to reevaluate the processes we take and ask ourselves if this ensures quality and safety. If the answer is yes, then we are on the right track. I assure everyone that the changes we are making are being done for the sake of the organization and for the sake of our patients. Region IX holds us to the same accountability as any other hospital in the 50 United States and rightfully so and we appreciate that," Muna said.

"We have extremely hard-working physicians, nurses and administrative staff at CHC and I'm proud of them. Also, in my meetings with the hospital administrator, the hospital's nursing director, and the team leaders involved in coming up with the plan of correction, I saw strong commitment from all of them and I am so proud of them as well," she added.

Muna noted, though, that CHC has the right to appeal if its CMS provider service agreement is terminated.

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ROSARY SCHEDULE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The family of the late Joana Katrina S. Vitug will be continuing with their 7pm rosary at San Jose Church. More details on the wake will be announced later.

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS
DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before **Monday, December 22**. Payments not received by close of business on **December 20** will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before **Monday, December 22**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by **Monday, December 22**. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service or Business Sales Center – Middle Road, Chalan Laolao.

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To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:
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Chalan Laulau – up to 5:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm
PAY BY PHONE - 682-4ITE (4483)

Live the Fiesta Way!
Holiday Season at Fiesta

Christmas Eve Special
World Café Restaurant
Seafood & Roast Beef Dinner Buffet
with Turkey Carving Station
December 24, 2014, Wednesday
6:00pm ~ 9:30pm
$35 per adult & $17.50 per children 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Red & White Wine & American Beer

Christmas Brunch
World Café Restaurant
December 25, 2014, Thursday
11:00am ~ 2:00pm
$35 per adult & $17.50 per children 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Beer, Red & White Wine,
Champagne and Juice
Free Pool passes / Picture with Santa

New Year's Eve Special
World Café Restaurant
Seafood & Roast Beef Dinner Buffet
with Ham Carving Station and Special Menus
December 31, 2014, Wednesday
6:00pm ~ 9:30pm
$50 per adult & $25 per children 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Red & White Wine, American Beer & Soda

New Year's Countdown with Joyful Dinner Show
"Island Style" South Beach
December 31, 2014, Wednesday
6:00pm ~ 1:00am
$85 per adult & 42.50per children 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Red & White Wine, American Beer and Juice
Cocktail Party Only at 10pm @ $45 per adult / child

New Year's Day Brunch
World Cafe Restaurant
January 1, 2015, Thursday
11:00am ~ 2:00pm
$35 per adult & $17.50 per children 4 ~ 11 years old
Free flow of Champagne, Draft Beer, Red & White Wine
and Juice

Rice Pounding Ceremony
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Man who threatened girlfriend with machete pleads guilty

An ex-convict accused of beating up his girlfriend and holding a machete to her neck pleaded guilty in Superior Court last week.

Theodore Oronigo Pehnos Jr. pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon as part of a plea deal. He will be sentenced on March 17, 2015, at 9am.

Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio ordered the Adult Probation Office to prepare a presentence investigation report.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato, counsel for Pehnos, waived revocation proceedings for his client.

Sato said Pehnos admits to violating the terms of his probation in a previous criminal conviction.

After the hearing, Pehnos was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Pehnos threatened bodily injury to his girlfriend by holding a machete to her neck. He swung the machete, hitting a board just a few inches away from the girlfriend's face.

Police detective Norman L. Skilling stated in his report that a police officer and a firefighter responded to a residence of Kagman after receiving a call about a domestic violence incident.

Skilling said preliminary investigation showed that the girlfriend and Pehnos had an altercation, he got angry, broke some items then choked her in the neck. Pehnos then allegedly slapped the victim in the face, pulled her hair, then held a machete to her neck. He then swung the machete at a lumber behind her. The suspect also allegedly broke things in the house.

The victim ran to a neighbor's house, where she called the police.

Skilling said that during his interview, Pehnos admitted to hitting his girlfriend in the face and scaring her with a machete. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NMC students hold outreach for Tinian students

Ten Natural Resource Management program students from the Northern Marianas College held an outreach for about 40 high school students on Tinian this week, according student Jolly Ann Cruz. She said the students shared the potential career and personal opportunities for students in the program.

Cruz, who is also president of the college's Environmental and Natural Resource Organization, said they, along with their adviser, Dr. Alfredo Torres, shared the merits of their studies with Tinian Jr. Sr. High School on Tuesday, as well as with NMC Tinian students on Monday.

Cruz, who also majors in education, compared NRM to her education studies, saying NRM is more "hands on."

"If you enjoy working out in the field then this is definitely the major you want," she said.

Shirley Ann Taitano, another NRM student, told the students of the many scholarships or internships they could take advantage of as NRM students. She said "most but not all" internships are fully paid for, with room and board.

She said a CARI-PAC internship she did in the summer of 2012 taught her techniques in sustainable agriculture. This was fully paid for, she said.

Cruz also took part in a mentoring and research program at the University of Hawaii last summer. She studied ocean acidification's effects on coral, she said.

Cruz said NRM "mixes up both" terrestrial, agricultural and marine studies. It opens up more opportunities to learn, she said.

She listed internships in Costa Rica, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland as opportunities for interested NRM students.

Taitano is hoping to get into a NOAA seafloor mapping program next year. She participated in a NOAA research in the Northern Islands this summer.

"The environment's important. So we need more people to help sustain and preserve it for the next generation," she said.

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FORD	STOCK #	Color	Discount
Fiesta S	EM225300	White	$2,500.00
~~Fiesta SE~~	~~EM22~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$2,500.00~~
Fiesta SE	EM225301	Gray	$2,500.00
~~Escape S~~	~~EUD1~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$3,000.00~~
Escape S	EUD12669	Blue	$3,000.00
Escape SE	EUB67717	Red	$3,500.00
~~Explorer EcoBoost~~	~~EGB2~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$4,000.00~~
Explorer XLT 4WD	EGB05148	Darkside	$4,000.00
F150 STX 4WD	EKE73316	Silver	$5,000.00

NISSAN	STOCK #	Color	Discount
Altima SV	EC177739	Mocha	$3,000.00
Altima SV	EC157024	White	$3,000.00
Rogue S	EC754914	Silver	$3,000.00
NV200 SV	EK696537	White	$3,000.00
~~Frontier SV~~	~~EN71~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
Frontier PRO4X	EN747027	Red	$4,000.00
Xterra PRO4X	EN807863	Red	$4,000.00
Maxima SV Sport	EC457171	Mocha	$4,000.00
~~Pathfinder Platinum~~	~~EC65~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$5,000.00~~

HONDA	STOCK #	Color	Discount
~~Civic LX~~	~~EE06553~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$2,500.00~~
~~Civic LX~~	~~EE00224~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$2,500.00~~
Civic LX	EE046655	Maroon	$2,500.00
Civic LX	EE065865	Silver	$2,500.00
~~Accord LX~~	~~EA26617~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~Accord EX~~	~~EA18773~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~CR-V LX~~	~~EL02628~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~CR-V EX~~	~~EL02846~~ SOLD	~~Mocha~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~Odyssey EX~~	~~EB11100~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$4,000.00~~

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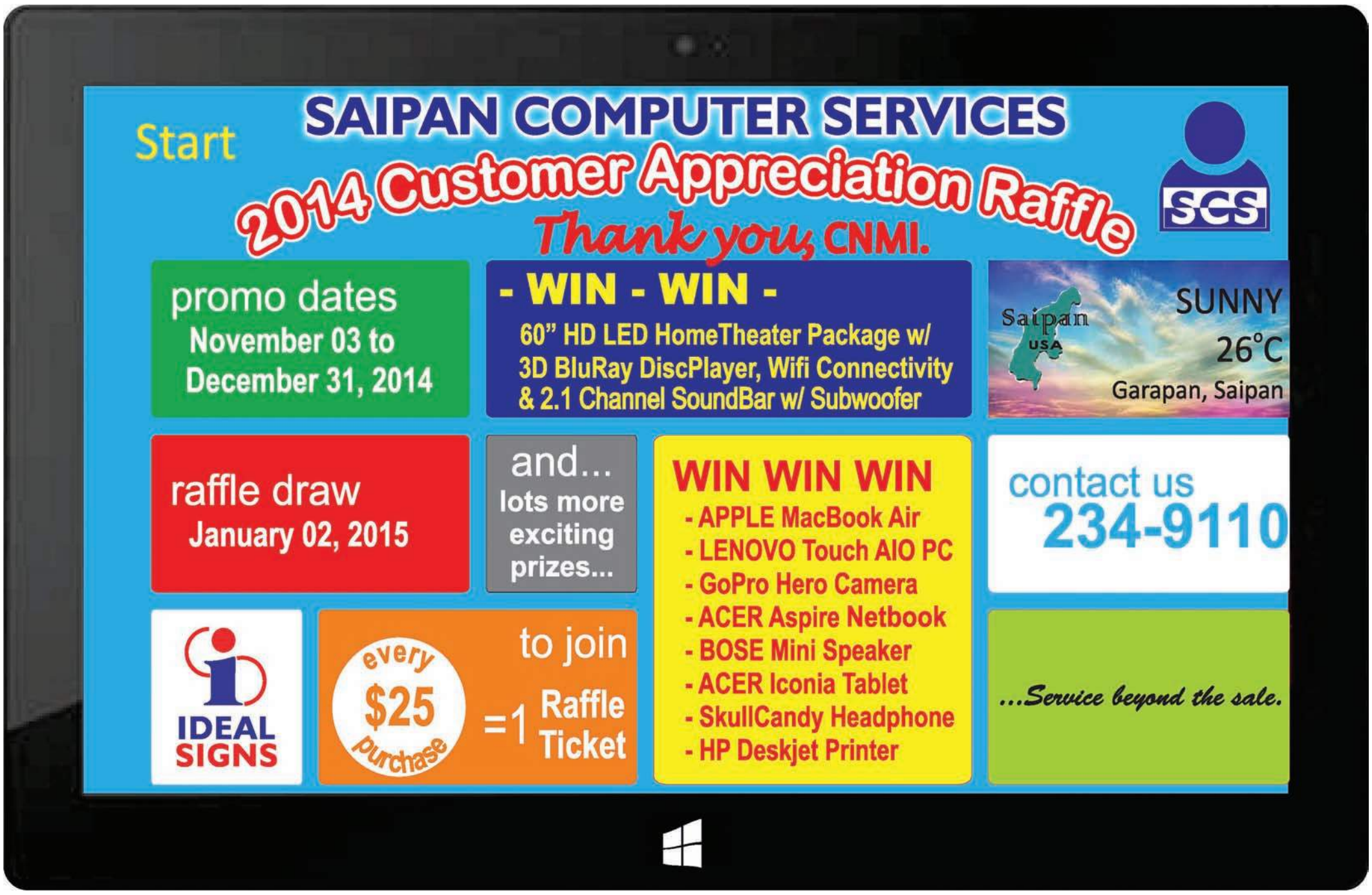

ALTER CITY GROUP

ALTER CITY GROUP *is a renowned and successful international real estate and property development and investment company with offices in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Zhuhai and Headquarters located in Macau. Current key projects include developing, constructing and operating 2 five-star first class integrated hotels and casinos resort, an 18-hole international golf course, a water themed park, VIP villas and other associated facilities complex located at San Jose, Tinian in CNMI.*

Our recent expansion in CNMI has created exciting opportunities and we now invite competent candidates to join us for a challenging career in our growing team within our organization.

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- The role is fundamental to the smooth and businesslike running of the corporate business on a day to day basis
- Responsible for the purchase of materials, plan inventory and ensure operations efficiency
- Responsible and lead for a wide ranging brief – facilities management, people management and finance
- Contribute towards the achievement of company's strategic and operational objectives
- Managing all security and other systems ensuring all procedures are complied with, and appropriate risks are assessed
- Conducting and implementing OM & workflow
- To ensure that the business achieves the required licenses and safety standards to comply with national health, fire and safety regulations thus ensuring the safety of the corporate staff and the public
- Perform quality controls and implement/monitor production KPI's, including setting operational goals to meet
- Manage and implement any software necessary for business growth

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT
- Assist in resolving problems on day to day basis in all operational areas
- Ensure that operational activities are executed within allotted budget, timelines and corporate policy
- Responsible for the execution of the regulations development, procedures and operating instructions tailored to the specific need of the business and addresses such functions as logistics and facilities management, range operations, and administrative requirements, etc.
- Responsible for the management of the supply chain, order processing including thorough documentation
- Maintain database of both internal and external needs
- Prepare responses to correspondence containing routine enquiries
- Other duties as assigned

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
- Develop HR strategy to short and long-range policy and operational issues
- Provides effective human resources guidance and support to the business in staffing, compensation & benefit, performance management, employee relations, orientation, policy/procedure interpretation, organizational design and recognition, etc.
- Manage the development and implementation of staffing strategies to ensure effective recruitment, using practices consistent with company policies and legal requirements
- Act as office manager to oversee and direct administrative service in the organization to ensure facility is equipped with supplies
- Create and operate a reporting system that allows for timely flow of data between regions of the organization
- Budgetary responsibilities include ensuring purchases are within assigned budget
- Performs other duties as assigned

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT
- Provide full support to HR Manager by assisting in managing day to day office admin and HR activities
- Assist in managing policies, procedures and conduct internal employee programs
- Maintain and update employee profiles and job specification for each hiring positions
- Hands on in HR Database Management, Legal Compliance/Code of Conduct, Organization Development/Process Improvement, Performance & Career Management, Recruitment & Selection, etc
- Arrange official appointments and meetings, record minutes and distribute
- Manage the office administration system to ensure overall company efficiency, productivity and cost effectiveness
- Any other HR duties as assigned

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING MANAGER
- Plan, execute, and finalize assigned project according to strict deadlines and within budget. Including acquiring resources and coordinating the efforts of team members and third-party contractors or consultants in order to deliver according to plan
- Setting up accounting system for new hotels and provide directions and support to all hotels in the group
- Responsible for full set of accounting including tax returns and independently oversee the financial daily operation
- Administer and monitor the financial system in order to ensure that the municipal finances are maintained in an accurate and timely manner
- Oversee the accounts payable and accounts receivable systems in order to ensure complete and accurate records of all monies
- Prepare monthly statements and financial reports
- Responsible for forecasting and budgeting
- Maintain fixed asset and depreciation registers on a monthly/quarterly basis
- CPA qualification and 8 years minimum related working experience

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- Managing bank accounts
- Consolidating annual accounting statements
- Preparing tax returns
- Assisting in any form of auditing
- Reconciling balance sheets
- Preparing financial reports
- Assist in other financial reporting functions when needs arise
- Perform other ad hoc tasks

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
- Manage public relations department by planning, directing, or coordinating activities designed to create or maintain a favorable public image or raise issue awareness for the company
- Maintain effective working relationships with local and municipal government officials and media representatives
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with clients, government officials, and media representatives and use these relationships to develop new business opportunities
- Write effective press releases, prepare information for media kits and develop and maintain company internet or intranet web pages
- Identify main client groups and audiences, determine the best way to communicate publicity information to them, and develop and implement a communication plan
- Draft speeches for company executives, and arrange interviews and other forms of contact
- Evaluate advertising and promotion programs for compatibility with public relations efforts
- Assign, supervise and review the activities of public relations staff

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR
- Engage in promoting or creating an intended public image for the company
- Respond to requests for information from the media
- Write press releases or other media communications for promotion
- Establish or maintain cooperative relationships with representatives of community, consumer, employee, or public interest groups
- Prepare or edit organizational publications, such as employee newsletters or stockholders' reports, for internal or external audiences
- Arrange public appearances, lectures, contests, or exhibits for clients to increase product or service awareness or to promote goodwill
- Perform all other tasks as assigned by management
- Field media inquiries and present proposed responses for management

CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGER
- Correspond with employees and external stakeholders to keep them informed of company developments
- Communicate externally with the media and other interested parties to announce corporate news and discuss organizational changes in a way that attempts to maintain a positive image of the company
- Identify key media opportunities, plan public relations programs, including the preparation of cost budgets
- Present controversy discussions/debates on behalf of the organization to government
- Respond to enquiries from the public, media and other organizations
- Arrange interviews with journalists, prepare and distribute media releases, and liaise with and make statements to the media/public
- Manage the creation and development of print and online advertising, email marketing, web site management and content development, press releases, bylined articles, white papers, corporate videos and any marketing collateral

CLIENT RELATIONSHIP EXECUTIVE
- Assist in developing and execute communications strategy
- Assist in building and maintaining a culture of communications within the business unit and other/external business units
- Assist in implementation of communications projects from conception to completion
- Coordinate with media and event management, provide communication services for external business units
- Track media coverage and provide analysis to the management
- Assist to conduct media materials, reports and proposals in limited time frames

Salary is commensurate with working experience and education. Qualified applicants please e-mail resumes to hr.cnmi@altercitygroup.com

- Alter City Group is an Equal Opportunity Employer
- Alter City Group offers an excellent remuneration and benefits package
- Candidates with local language ability would be an advantage and able to speak Chinese, Japanese or Korean would be a bonus
- For manager position, university/college graduate with minimum 8 years of related working experience and for executive assistant position, degree holder with minimum 5 years
- Excellent in oral and written communications
- Willing to work flexible hours
- Individual must be authorized to work in the U.S. and its territories

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase and Olomwaay for your interest in working with Alter City Group.

Plumeria Golf & Casino Resort
Tinian, CNMI

China travel agents warm up to Saipan

Representatives of Asiana Airlines along with six key travel agencies in Heilongjiang Province left below-freezing temperatures behind in northeast China for balmy tropical breezes in Saipan this month.

The group conducted a FAM(iliarization) tour of Saipan on Dec. 12-15, 2014, with the goal of increasing sales from the province.

"The group had a full agenda of exploring the visitor attractions on island, and with this firsthand experience, they can now better sell the dream of basking in warm sunshine and indulging in the beautiful blue ocean of the Northern Marianas," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a short flight and a cost-effective escape from winter in China."

Participating companies were Asiana Airlines Harbin Regional Sales Office, China International Travel Service Heilongjiang Co., Heilongjiang Airports Management Group Ticket Sales Co., Air International Travel Service, Harbin Everlasting International Travel Service, Heilongjiang Aishang International Travel Service Co., and Harbin Seasons International Travel Agency Co.

Activities included an island tour of scenic and historic sites in Marpi; Saipan SandCastle cocktail show; Managaha tour; jungle tour; Kanoa Resort BBQ dinner show; and inspections of 880 Duty Free Shop; Joeten Shopping Center, Joeten Superstore, and T Galleria. A number of restaurants were also visited: Double Eagle Restaurant, Chung Gi Wa Korean Restaurant, Tony Roma's, and Hard Rock Café. The group conducted hotel inspections of Fiesta Resort & Spa, Coral Ocean Point Resort and golf course, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort Saipan, and Hyatt Regency Saipan, where they lodged.

The MVA provided a language-specific marketing specialist to accompany the group during their tour. ***(MVA)***

Six travel agents and one representative of Asiana Airlines from Heilongjiang Province in northeast China conducted a FAM tour of Saipan on Dec. 12-15, 2014, accompanied by Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, far right. Temperatures in Heilongjiang this month have dropped below freezing, a strong selling point for the sub-tropic Northern Mariana Islands.

MVA

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 22, 2002

'Innocent until proven guilty'

It will, undoubtedly, be a not-so-merry Christmas for the families of Senators Ricardo Atalig and Jose Dela Cruz, who have been placed in hot water following a federal inquiry into their alleged illegal activities. However, Public Safety Commissioner Edward Camacho reminded the public Friday that Atalig and Dela Cruz should be considered innocent until proven guilty by the court of law. Camacho issued the statement following the arrest of the two senators, who were charged with 26 counts of wire fraud and a count of conspiracy to commit the offenses. In a media briefing Friday morning, Camacho told reporters that the legislators should be accorded deference. "Like anyone else, they are innocent until proven guilty. I hope that the Senate leadership has its own regulations in dealing with cases like this."

December 22, 2007

Ex-convict is charged with alleged burglary

The Attorney General's Office has filed charges against an ex-convict who was arrested a few minutes after he allegedly burglarized an apartment room in Garapan. Angel Selepeo Taman, 26, was charged with burglary and theft. Chief Prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr. stated in the information that on Dec. 9, 2007, Taman burglarized the apartment room of Cui Gui Li in Garapan. Warfield said the defendant stole Li's purse containing jewelry and other documents, all worth over $250. A detective stated in his report that while Li was in the bedroom with her baby, she thought her husband used the bathroom when she heard someone opened the bedroom. When Li got up, she saw a man, who then ran out the door carrying her purse.

Justices reverse denial of two adoption cases

The CNMI Supreme Court has reversed Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo's denial of two adoption petitions after the high court determined that the judge based his ruling on assumptions. The justices also noted Govendo's language during the adoption hearings that, according to them, "does not meet the reasonable observer's appearance of justice." In reversing the Superior Court's decision to deny adoption petitions involving three children, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Alexandro C. Castro ruled that the trial court clearly made a mistake in denying the adoptions because it improperly relied on evidence not entered into the record.

December 22, 2008

Fitial supports phase out of poker machines

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial supports the Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council resolution that seeks the elimination of all poker machines, except those at licensed casinos, in the CNMI by June 30, 2009. Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said Fitial just told him yesterday morning that he is willing to support the poker phase out as requested by SEDC. "He is supporting the SEDC resolution to ban poker in the CNMI except at licensed casinos," said Reyes in an interview. He said the governor agreed with the reasons cited by SEDC in passing the resolution.

Ex-CUC employee found guilty

One of the five former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employees accused of being part of a disconnection scam has been found guilty of one count of violation of the CUC Code. CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona found Francisco F. Faisao guilty in a decision issued yesterday. Manglona set the sentencing for Feb. 4, 2009. Faisao could spend a maximum of five years in prison. Earlier, Manglona dismissed three charges against Faisao after he and four other ex-CUC staff were accused of engaging in a scam by purposely skipping the names of family members and friends from a power disconnection list. The charges dismissed included one count of theft of services and two counts of conspiracy to commit theft of services.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION
December 22, 2014

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Marianas Trekking Corp	12/04/2014 SLRm-2014-X-061	Non Motorized Marine Sports	Managaha	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (12/18/2014)*
2. Songbird Aviation	12/04/2014 SSm-2014-X-063	Air Park	Marpi	Shoreline APC	Approved (12/18/2014)*
3. Saipan Diving World, Inc.	12/17/2014 SLRm-2014-X-065	Scuba Diving Operations	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review

Publication of the above list is in accordance with DCRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2014 ELECTION CANDIDATES and POLITICAL PARTIES

Public Law 12-18, the "Northern Mariana Islands Election Reform Act of 2000" (the Act), requires all certified candidates to file a detailed campaign statement of account. This itemized Statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified statement by **December 24, 2014**, shall subject you to a fine of up to **$100 per day** for each day the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account" form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is **mandatory**.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Notary Service Schedule:

Saipan:
Office of the Public Auditor
Monday through Friday
8am to 4:30pm

Rota:
Rota Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Wednesday, December 17, 2014 – 9am to 4:30pm
Thursday, December 18, 2014 – 9am to 12:00pm

Tinian:
Tinian Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Monday, December 15, 2014 – 8:30am to 4:30pm

INOS GIVES NMI 4- DAY XMAS
A huge Christmas tree, along with numerous red and gold ornaments, adorn the entranceway of the Governor's Office on Capital Hill. As Christmas approaches, and in line with a similar declaration made by Pres. Barack Obama, Gov. Eloy S. Inos has declared Dec. 26 a holiday to allow island residents to fully enjoy the yuletide season with their loved ones.
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Study looks at CNMI corals over a 12-year period

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A study examining coral reefs in the CNMI over a 12-year period looked at how natural disturbances, local stressors, and existing environment factors played into the long-term dynamics of the reefs here.

The study, published in August this year, found more coral decline on Saipan than on Rota, which was may likely be explained by the poorer water quality, runoff-caused nutrient enrichment on Saipan as well as smaller fish size on the island.

The study focused on the "significant coral loss" in the CNMI between 2003 and 2006 with the passing of several typhoons, and high densities of crown of thorn starfish, which are known to prey on coral.

No "potential synergies or linkages" between storm activity and COTS densities were proven, though. The study said the failure of reef recoveries were best explained through local stressors. These stressors transformed reefs into "persistent stands of turf and macroalgae," making it less conducive for coral recovery, the study said.

The study found that declining trends were strongest for gently sloping reefs, which largely occur in areas of low wave exposure. These reefs are also "centers for reef based tourism," the study said, and highlights a need to improve upon the "compromised" fish, and grazing urchin populations, among other things, where water quality problems occur, according to the study.

COTS was the "primary driver" of disturbances during the mid-2000's, the study claimed. However, while COTS densities were similar during these years for Saipan and Rota, more coral decline on Saipan was found.

The study said this could be because Rota had less coral or prey to begin with, or fish on Rota had larger biomass or body-size, which reportedly is associated with reduced impacts from COTS disturbances.

Also, water quality on Rota was consistently better over the past decade compared to Saipan, and nutrient enrichment from runoff has contributed to localized COTS populations on Saipan, the study said.

The study also highlighted what it called "an interesting and emerging association" between high COTS impact, smaller-bodied fish populations, and low wave exposure.

It explained that even if similar biomass of fish existed, fish made up of smaller-bodied species have a reduced ecological function in coral reef food webs. It referred to a study that showed large fish species grazing "disproportionally" on algae, while smaller fish grazed on detritus or substrate.

The study said these large fish species represented "highly desirable food fish" in the CNMI. It said local market studies showed the fishes' "declining size and abundance" over the last couple of decades.

It said size and functional diversity of the fish were influential to coral reef recovery patterns, which made their improved management desirable.

Scientists who led the study were from the University of Guam, Pacific Marine Resources Institute, and CNMI Bureau of Environmental Quality.

The study is titled "Coral Reef Disturbance and Recovery Dynamics Differ across Gradients of Localized Stressors in the Marianas Islands." It can be found online.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Landfill, transfer station schedule

On Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2014, the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill will be closed at 12:30pm. Also, in observance of Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25, 2014, both the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill will be closed all day. Regular schedule will resume Friday, Dec. 26, and Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014, from 7:30am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 4pm. Thank you and have a safe and happy Christmas Day. From the staff and management of the Solid Waste Division. ***(PR)***

Navy training on Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam--The U.S. Navy will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla Dec. 23 from 4:30pm to 9:30pm. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the date and time indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Guaranteed Prize Pool
$100,000
Tournament Date: February 13-15, 2015 (Friday - Sunday)
* TINIAN CUP TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE: $600

Win a seat in the 1st ever
"Tinian Cup Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament" through Super Satellite

Starting December 12th and continuing every Fri/Sat thru January 31st a satellite tournament will be held at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino at 19:00hrs on the casino floor.

*Satellite tournament entry fee: $100 (must be at least 6 players)

100% of the Satellite pool is redistributed as follows:
1st place winning a spot in our Super Satellite tournament and 50% of the pool
2nd wins 30% of the pool
3rd wins 20% of the pool

Our Super Satellite Tournament
will be held Saturday Feb. 7th at 19:00 hrs
where the top 5 finishers win a free entry into the Tinian Cup!

Please visit Casino or call:
Hotline 328-2233 ext. 2285, 2830 or 2855 for information

* Terms and conditions apply
*Bet with your head not over it.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Terrorists win a round over Sony's 'Interview'

If an anonymous group threatened in mid-December to harm bakeries without saying where, when or how, would every doughnut shop and cake vendor feel compelled to shut down through the holiday season? Of course not. Yet a threat by an anonymous group of hackers led the country's major theater chains to close their doors to "The Interview," Sony Pictures' edgy comedy about a planned assassination of North Korea's Kim Jong Un. The hackers are engaged in terrorism, pure and simple, in an effort to stop people from seeing the movie. But even though the terrorists won this round, Sony still can--and should--make the movie widely available through other means.

The so-called Guardians of Peace, whom U.S. intelligence officials have reportedly linked to the North Korean government, assaulted Sony's computer network in late November, stealing files and erasing hard drives. After titillating industry-watchers for a few weeks by leaking embarrassing emails and sensitive personal information about Sony employees--as well as exposing rank-and-file studio employees to identity theft by releasing their Social Security numbers--the hackers upped the ante this week by promising a "bitter fate" to those who see the movie. "Remember the 11th of September 2001," the group said. "We recommend you to keep yourself distant from the places (that show "The Interview") at that time."

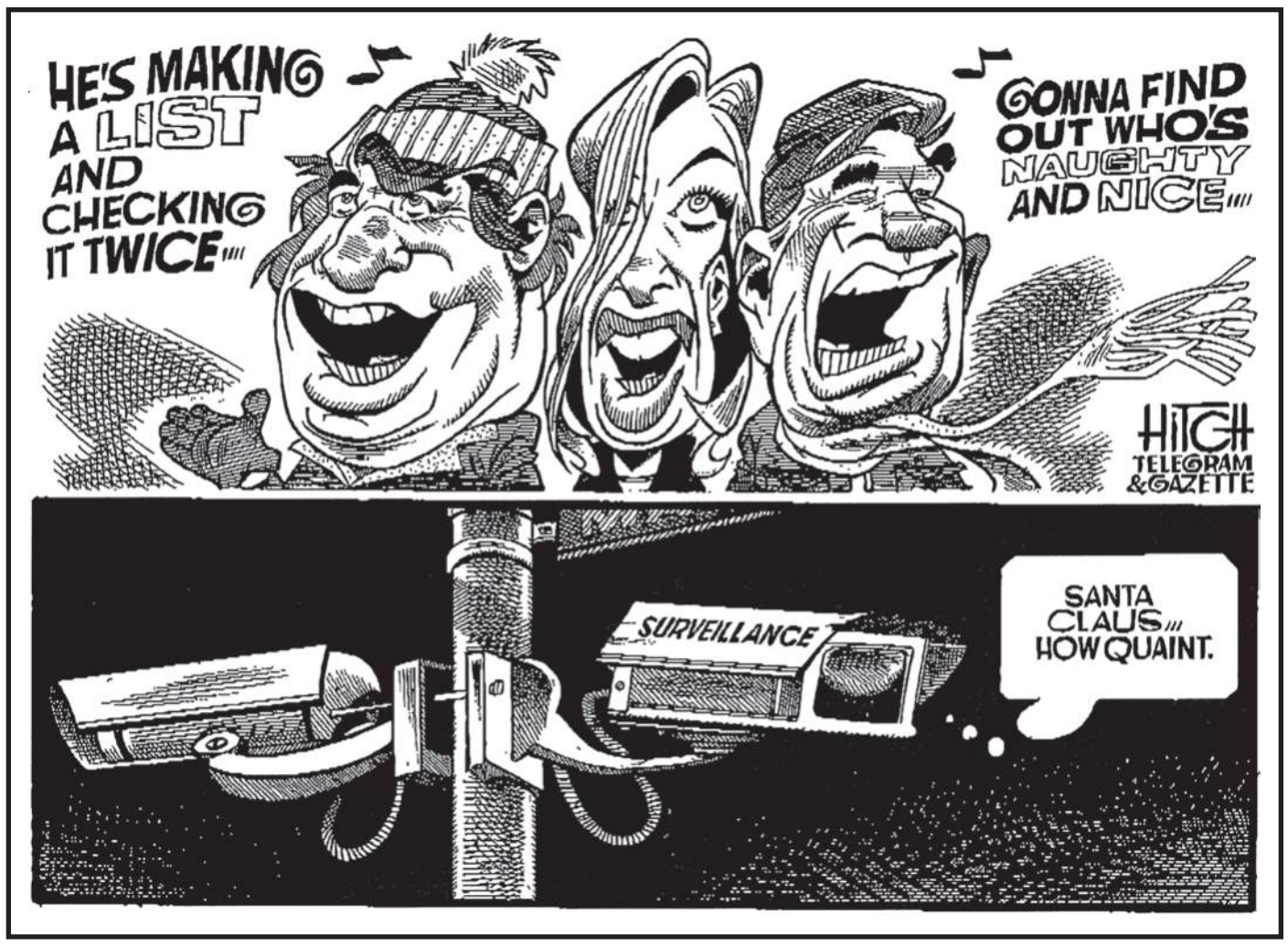
The nation's five largest theater chains dropped the film within a day, saying they wanted to wait until federal authorities had completed their investigation or the hackers had been caught. Sony responded Wednesday by announcing that it would not release the film to theaters next week, with no hint as to its future plans.

Considering the Guardians' demonstrable ability to wreak havoc digitally and the potential--however remote--that someone could get hurt, theater owners are in a very tough spot. Yet if the hackers succeed in keeping "The Interview" out of theaters, it will surely not be the last time a group with an ax to grind makes such a threat. And there's no shortage of people around the world with axes to grind.

Sony can make the best of a bad situation by borrowing a tactic increasingly used by independent studios. It should make "The Interview" available through online and pay-TV video-on-demand services, which don't lend themselves to a headline-grabbing attack the way a crowded multiplex might. And if the studio really wanted to stick it to the Guardians, it would offer the movie at a price designed to maximize the number of viewers, not necessarily the revenue collected.

Judging from the early reviews, "The Interview" probably isn't worth the fuss. But the hackers picked this fight, threatening not just a single Hollywood studio but the millions of Americans likely to go to a movie during the holidays. And no matter what you think of the people behind "The Interview," they represent any artist whose work may offend someone in power. That's the sort of speech we can't afford to have squelched.

(c)2014 *Los Angeles Times*


HE'S MAKING A LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE!!!
GONNA FIND OUT WHO'S NAUGHTY AND NICE!!!
HITCH
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE
SURVEILLANCE
SANTA CLAUS!!! HOW QUAINT.

Winter solstice

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

The shortest day and the longest night in the northern hemisphere make a shift and a turn in December. Christmas Day coincided with winter solstice, to say that the dark night of the soul will get shorter and the lighter day of salvation and redemption longer. Culturally, the day is a moment of rebirth, from the shadows of darkness to the power of light.

With urban lights and round-the-clock workdays, the length of daylight hours no longer makes any difference. Some of us have actually forgotten how the axial tilt of the planet and the gyroscopic effects of its rotation determined much of our life and behavior as the temperate zone parceled out the journey of winter, spring, summer, and fall.

Recently though, I noticed I am a creature of clock time. I just cleaned up the kitchen after breakfast, and on my way to the living room, I glanced at the wall clock that indicated it was half-an-hour before noon. Suddenly, my tummy growled for a bowl of *soba.* On my way back to the kitchen, I noticed that the second hand of the clock was not moving, and on closer investigation, I realized that it needed new batteries. After I got it back to running and I discovered that it was barely 9am I realized that my yen for *soba* disappeared. My tummy recognized the time; I was not hungry anymore!

The prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England famously known as Stonehenge is a celebration of the winter solstice, with the two open spaces on the circular stones as where the light traveled when the light entered in the morning from the eastern side to the western exit, not a direct one but a refracted one from the center. That was a discovery 5,000 years ago in the land now called England.

Much earlier built was Newgrange in County Meath, Ireland, that predated the ritual function and physiological make-up of Stonehenge, a prehistoric monument whose mound and passage similarly captures the light. Other sites in existence serve the same function.

Something about the harvesting of slabs of stones was itself considered a feat since they were moved from source to destination. A famous slab weighs more than 500 lbs on the Western Wall of Jerusalem, currently a place of significance as Eretz Israel redefines Palestine exclusively as Jewish, angering Muslims whose activities at the Al-Aqsa Mosque (not to be confused with the Dome on the Rock at Judaism's Temple Mount where Solomon's Temple of Jerusalem once stood) is curtailed by police while allowing conservative Hebraic youth to frolic where the Muslims call upon Allah in their prayers during the day.

Those of us residing between the Tropic of Cancer north of the equator and the Tropic of Capricorn south are totally impervious to the mystique of winter solstice, but Jerusalem and the pyramids of Egypt, along with the mystery traditions of the Mediterranean and the Levant, used the metaphor of rebirth into their maps of social significance and communal rituals.

Japan in our neighborhood has the *Amaterasu* that celebrates a delightfully "human" sun goddess, particularly at its Shinto Ise Shrine, though not as monotheistic as the sun god *Ra* of Egypt from where the Ramses pharaohs derived their power of the scepter, and from where Moses was influenced in the monotheism of YHWH, *Elohim Adonai*.

The winter of our discontent in Dong Bei comes with the continuing burning of coal to power its electrical needs. Manchuria was first to industrialize in China, before Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing and Shenzhen found the heat that lit their fires. The Japanese made Changchun in Liaoning's northern neighbor, the Province of Jilin, its automotive manufacturing center.

In the China-U.S. treaty on climate change, China vowed to cease its reliance on coal by 2030, the first time China tied itself to a date. With the increasing use of energy from renewable sources like wind, water, ocean tide and the sun, China has rolled up its sleeves and is not just whistling in the wind.

Meanwhile, the wonderlust of winter attracts visitors to the snow and ice sculpture festival in Harbin, Heilongjiang the first week of January. The Teutonic *Yule* gave us Yuletide season. Hanukkah commemorates the Maccabean revolt vs the Seleucids 2nd Century BC with a unique candelabrum of nine-branch *menorah* (usually, eight), or *hanukiah,* the festival of lights on the heels of the winter solstice. The Dec. 26th newly organized Kwanzaa started in North America by folks of West African descent utilizing Arabic-influence East African Swahili to show communal African solidarity.

The turn to lengthening days and shortening nights continues for six months until the summer solstice. But a sense of *wellness unto life* in the human psyche is an OS option year-round, not dependent on the warmth of the sun and the cold of winter but a simple matter of choice, regardless of one's world location, even for a Jew in Palestine and an Arab in Jerusalem!

Not solstice automatic, but all is well who decides! Be well.

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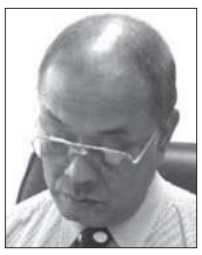
'I hear you…' Oh?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



I've treaded and read extensively of the mystery of the Obama Presidency. It's simple: A self-anointed messiah of global socialism who's used the WH to get his agenda through at all cost.

From the outset, he's stood before the teleprompter searching for charitable lamentations whenever he's caught delivering less than straightforward appraisal of his new policies. It's all lies!

When caught and cornered he denies it or blames some poor sap in his inner circle for giving ill-prepared materials. He's cemented the reputation of the Talker-in-Chief, not the Great Communicator. The latter is solely Reagan's.

He addresses the Ferguson inferno in search of constructive discussion about lawlessness. He did it knowing there's no civil rights or religious leader who could steer it. Yet he refuses to fill the void in an honest effort to bring calm across the country. He specializes in the concept of vagueness using his favorite tools of denial or passing the blame to the staff he's turned into doormats. Notice how many have left after enduring subsequent career ruination?

Obama and former AG Eric Holder have purposely exploited constitutional and administrative authority on lawmaking that is solely the purview of Congress. So far he's dished out one on immigration through the term of "memo" rather than executive order. Sure, it may fall within the definition of "administrative" order but it's still a form of lawmaking violating the concept of separation of powers. A recent court memo says it's unconstitutional!

Recently, he told the American people "I hear you…" Fine. This time, sir, it's vital that you return to figure out if they're even listening to your empty reply. You had the opportunity to solidify a legacy as a very influential head of the world's most powerful country. But your one lies too many has compromised it as just an inconsequential bystander.

Wounded as I may be, let's see how else would you play out your useless presidency over the next two years. This strange legacy reminds me of someone closer to home. But we'd leave that for another day. Did you hear me?

The Journey

It's been a long though worthy journey writing about issues that matter. I've done it with a higher sense of purpose beyond self. We may differ on views. It is expected deferring to the proverbial coin. Yes, a lot of our folks have yet to learn separating people from issues. But I also expect great strides on this score as more folks hone basic literacy.

I've seen the wild seesaw swing when spouting on the concept of self-government. This too is expected given the very slow process in what's known in a democracy as political maturity. Unfortunately, it doesn't have a ready manual to follow whenever we veer off track. It all comes back to, yes, "we the people."

The political season spurs something new rhetorically. After all is said and done a victor and villain emerge. One places his best foot forward nervously while the other sashays into oblivion. The victor embraces old problems with new hope. Without leadership old problems quickly graduate into "old" normal. Would this really shift this time around? We shall see in a short while.

I've learned to roll with the punches of grand mañana painfully serving the role of a sponge absorbing our inability to "say what we mean and mean what we say." We seem content with the absurdity as "do-nothings." The viciousness of fiscal scarcity would force reality check sooner than later.

Painful reality would set in as the mad scramble for more of nonexistent revenue hits rock bottom. Would another $7.1 billion casino help? There's nothing else to hang my hat on, so to speak. Perhaps a nervous crossing of the fingers ought to allay my unjustified fear for now. But it seems I've been down this road before!

Travails with casino industry

A quick glimpse into an article in the *South China Morning Post* about Macau's casino suffering heavy losses as a result of China's decision to purge corruption in the gambling hub clipped my optimism that such an industry would make it here. In fact, Macau would be forced to diversify its economy to other than gambling. Must be a lesson to glean so we put one and one together.

The $7.1 billion project for Saipan is overly ambitious. While BSI successfully raised $100 million recently, it needs $900 million to fulfill its first billion dollars. This undertaking could be one hellish journey just to secure the promised $7.1 billion casino.

Then there are realistically difficult hurdles like the need for 3,000 to 6,000 workers to build and staff the facility. Even more mind-numbing is what I call "infrastructure deficit"—lack of water, power, sewer and roads—in places selected as the likely venue for the Saipan casino.

Isn't it true that basic infrastructure determines development? Has the NMI invented house construction from the roof down? If so, this should be patented forthwith (as recommended by Ioanes) so it is spread throughout the global village. *Dios mihu*!

I'm equally enthusiastic that casino works so it becomes a component of our leisure industry. But like the marshmallow test, it's good to step back to figure out the beast first before plunging off the cliff of no return.

Mystique of 'noche buena'

There's something about the holiday season that is a mystique in itself. I know the event revolves around the birth of the Niñu Jesus. But there's that mixed bag of sentiment that is sometime difficult to navigate, e.g., ominous nervousness, calmness and joyfulness all wrapped in one.

Like most folks, maybe my sense of fear is in the uncertainty of the New Year. We struggle to stay calm to think things through in order to exit the circle of confusion and the deepening bad times. Therein lies the excitement of the challenges occasionally soothed by our razor thin sense of hope.

A growing problem with China

By JEFF BERGNER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Former World Bank president Bob Zoellick encapsulated American policymakers' hopes for a growing China: China should become a "responsible stakeholder" in the world economic and political system.

To date this notion has largely been interpreted as foreign policy guidance. American diplomats work to channel China's pursuit of regional security objectives into peaceful undertakings and without the threat of military force. They work to gain China's cooperation in addressing worldwide issues like nuclear proliferation and climate change. And they work to shape China's foreign assistance program to respond to humanitarian needs and not simply to benefit China's mercantile interests.

What is less well understood is that being a responsible stakeholder entails fair and open economic policies as well. This includes both China's export policies and its regulation of foreign firms doing business in China. Here is where the U.S. confronts a growing problem.

The rhetoric on both sides is solid. President Obama said in Beijing recently "we look to China to create a more level playing field on which foreign companies are treated fairly so that they can compete fairly with Chinese companies." And President Xi for his part said recently that "we shall proceed with reform and opening up without hesitation."

Unfortunately, however, China's deeds do not match its words; its economic practices are moving in exactly the wrong direction. Foreign businesses generally, and American businesses specifically, are increasingly singled out for different _ and far harsher _ treatment than Chinese businesses. This is true across the board and across all sectors of business. It is true of new business license applications, approvals for mergers, pricing decisions and generally accepted business practices. U.S. businesses report an increasingly unfriendly atmosphere in China, and new foreign investment in China has slowed appreciably.

There is one area in which Chinese regulatory practices have been especially egregious, and that concerns food and drug safety. Every nation certainly has the right, and even the obligation, to enforce regulations guaranteeing the safety of food and drugs. There is no doubt about that. But China has gone about this in a clearly anti-foreign manner.

Examples abound, but perhaps the poster child for selective regulatory overkill concerns the U.S. food processing firm OSI. OSI processes meat and poultry for the Chinese fast food market. OSI's Shanghai plant was raided by Chinese authorities on the basis of the flimsiest and most contrived allegations. Its plant was shut down, its employees idled and its management detained. What is especially troubling is Chinese government behavior not only during such raids, but in their aftermath. Business managers have, in this case as in others, been "detained" (sent to prison) on no clear charges, and held in order to produce "confessions" of wrong-doing as a condition of their release. This procedure flies in the face of any notion of transparency or due process.

Contrast this with Chinese behavior in the United States market. China's Taishan Gypsum Company supplied the U.S. market with defective, dangerous drywall which was used in the construction of thousands of U.S. homes. Taishan is part of the China National Building Material Corporation, which in turn is run by the State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission. Taishan is a Chinese government-run corporation. And what position did this corporation take in U.S. legal proceedings? Taishan's attorney argued that its actions in the United States could not be controlled by the American legal system and that cases involving Chinese exports should be adjudicated under Chinese law.

What is to be done about this obvious, and growing, double standard? American businesses in China are constrained by the fact that they must seek justice from the very government which allows them to operate in China in the first place. For this reason, there is a clear role for the U.S. government to play in addressing this growing problem.

The U. S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade which is meeting in Chicago this week would be a good place to start. This should be an occasion for some direct talk about China's growing double standard.

More than that is required. The U.S. ambassador to China, Max Baucus, has a strong background in international finance, dating back to his days as chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance. He understands the problem of selective Chinese enforcement against U.S. businesses. He needs strong backing from the State Department in Washington, however, in order to successfully address this issue.

U.S. businesses have been one of the strongest voices advocating an expanded relationship between the U.S. and China. They have unfailingly advocated engagement, while other voices have focused on the more divisive issues of human rights violations or Chinese policies toward Taiwan, Tibet, North Korea or Taiwan. American businesses have argued that an expanded economic relationship with China is an important way to open up China, expand its middle class and move its government in a more democratic direction. In the wake of China's growing double standard over business practices, it is becoming harder and harder for American businesses to play this role.

There is a vital role for the Congress to play as well. When the new Congress convenes, announcement of an early set of hearings on the U.S.-China economic relationship would be entirely appropriate. A joint hearing including both the Foreign Relations and Commerce Committees in either or both houses would be a way to elevate the importance of these issues.

Congress has often played the role of keeping both China's government and the U.S. administration's "feet to the fire." This has been the case regarding China's policy toward Taiwan, China's policy toward Tibet, China's one child policy and China's currency exchange rate. Congress can, and should, play this role here as well.

The U.S. and Chinese economies are now roughly the same size. China is a competitive economic world power and there is no reason for it to operate on a different, and preferential basis vis-a-vis America. This problem should be met head on before it jeopardizes the overall relationship between the two largest economies in the world today.

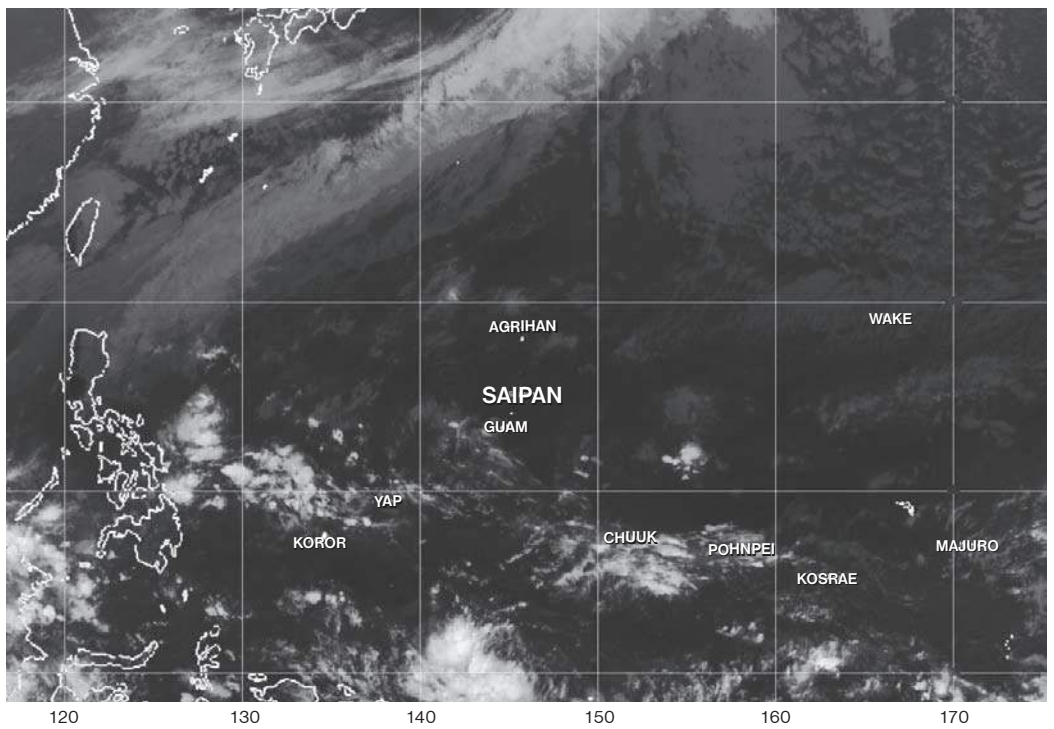
Jeff Bergner is a lecturer at the Batten School of the University of Virginia. He previously served as staff director of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and as Assistant Secretary of State. Readers may send him email at bergner9700@gmail.com.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy swith isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs west-southwestward from east of Wake Island near 19N180 passing south of Pagan at 17N146E to end near 16N132E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are seen along and up to 250 miles north of the shear line east of 157E. Spotty light showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of the feature west of 157E. A cold front extends southwestward from just east of Iwo To island near 25N144E to beyond 130E at 19N. Clouds and patchy rain extend northwest of the front to beyond 25N. A weak circulation is centered well southwest of Chuuk near 1N143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present south of a line from 1N140E to 3N143E to EQ146E. Converging trade winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Yap within 120 miles of a line from 11N130E to 9N136E and south of Chuuk to near Pohnpei within 110 miles of a line from 6N148E to 6N160E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers east of Majuro within 70 miles of a line from 8N175E to 8N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼82
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲48	▼23
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼59
Honolulu	Showers	▲78	▼68
London	Windy	▲55	▼51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77	▼56
Manila	Showers	▲81	▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲86	▼58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼71
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲43	▼41
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼41
Paris	Cloudy	▲50	▼44
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼39
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼47
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼33
Tokyo	Sunny	▲52	▼36
Washington, DC	Showers	▲44	▼40

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:57 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	5:52 PM
Tuesday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Thursday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:25 AM	6:09 PM
Tuesday	7:23 AM	7:10 PM
Wednesday	8:19 AM	8:11 PM
Thursday	9:13 AM	9:12 PM
Friday	10:03 AM	10:11 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Adopt a dog this Christmas

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control program would like the community to give their dogs a home this holiday season. Program manager Spencer Marchadesch and other dog lovers and volunteers joined the Christmas parade last Saturday from Garapan Fishing Base to Coral Tree Avenue to showcase their cause.

"We really want to promote adoption. It's really sad seeing the dogs at the shelter. They really all deserve a loving home and a caring family," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

In October, it was reported that 587 of the 709 stray dogs captured this year had been euthanized. Remaining dogs have either been reclaimed, adopted or remain at the island's animal shelter.

Marchadesch said there are 36 dogs at the shelter right now but they do bring in dogs everyday. He said these dogs range from puppies to adults.

Interested community members can contact the Mayor's Office at 234-6209, he said.

"We do have a stray dog problem on our island. We need a lot of support, a lot of help from the community. We'd like more events to showcase our dogs, and promote more responsible dog ownership. I know a lot of people do care and we want to help," he said.

He said one volunteer, Damiana Smith, is interested in leading training coursesfor dogs after their adoption. He said this could offer more incentive for adoption.

Several other volunteers joined Marchedesch and Smith during the parade. Two "representatives" from the shelter were walked during the parade, Marchedesch said. One dog was 6-month-old and the other a 6 week old puppy, he said.

By the parade's end, Smith told *Saipan Tribune* that the puppy had been adopted. A man from the community, who also joined the volunteers during the walk had expressed his interested in adopting the dog.

"He fell in love with her," Smith said.

Another volunteer named Taguchi brought his 8-year-old dog, Diana, to the parade. He called her his "partner" and said he had adopted her from the shelter.

Inos OK's bill appropriating $387K for Saipan projects

Gov. Eloy S. Inos last week signed a bill appropriating $387,000 collected from poker licenses and fees for various uses as designated by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

With the governor's signature, House Local Bill 18-64, D1, is now Saipan Local Law 18-23 and among the beneficiaries is the non-profit organization Ayuda Network, which will be getting $18,000 from the appropriation.

The law also gives $75,000 for the construction of Fitme Place road on Navy Hill, Saipan and for the inner road construction from the Garapan Fishing Base north to the Children's Park area by the Carolinian Affairs Office.

The CNMI Farmer's Cooperative Association also receives $60,000 as "seed money" for the Garapan Public Market, which it runs.

SLL 18-23 also sets aside funds for the following:

- $32,000 for field operations equipment of the Office of the Mayor of Saipan;
- $30,000 for the Public School System to procure school buses;
- $34,000 for the repair and maintenance of the basketball court & social hall in Precinct II;
- $34,000 to construct bus shelters and road bumps in Precinct V;
- $34,000 to renovate the Health Center in Precinct IV; and
- $70,000 for various projects in Precinct 1.

HLB 18-64 passed the SNILD unanimously last Dec. 4, 2014. Tebuteb and House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero certified it. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-004

SECURITY GUARD SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to provide Security Guard Services for various posts at CUC, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package set. Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by December 29, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a site visitation of CUC Saipan Facilities will be held on **December 30, 2014** at 10:00 a.m. (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. A site visitation of CUC Rota Facilities will be conducted on January 2, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST). A site visitation of CUC Tinian Facilities will be conducted on January 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of $200,000.00. The Contractor shall agrees to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Bidders shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Bidders shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-004, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on January 15, 2015** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **December 31, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vincent Pangelinan, Safety Officer, CUC Compliance & Safety Division via email address vince.pangelinan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-002

POWER SUPPLY RESOURCES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities to supply reliable, affordable energy from commercially proven electric generation resources for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one, or more, proponent(s) to negotiate long-term power supply contracts that best fit CUC's power supply requirements. CUC's requirements for new power supply resources will be determined as part of its Integrated Resource Plan, which is currently underway. More information regarding the Integrated Resource Plan can be found at the CUC's website at http://www.cucgov.org/integrated-resource-plan/.

The RFP documents may be downloaded from the CUC website at http://www.cucgov.org/power-supply-rfp/. It is each proponent's responsibility to ensure they have received all RFP documents posted to this website. An updated checklist will be provided in early January, titled "RFP Document Receipt Checklist and Affirmation" prior to the submittal deadline. In order to reduce the cost to CUC of this procurement and in the interest of sustainable business practices, CUC will not be providing printed RFP materials; all RFP materials will be posted and distributed electronically.

Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, by filling out and submitting a Proponent Registration Form by 10:00 am December 15, 2014 in order to be considered. The Proponent Registration Form is posted to the website at http://www.cucgov.org/power-supply-rfp/ and can be delivered in printed format or electronically via email to the CUC Procurement Contact for Power Supply RFP:

Manny B. Sablan, Jr.
Purchasing Officer
Address: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Third Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg.
P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP, 96950
Office Phone: (670) 236-4303
Email: manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

The deadline for proposal submittals is currently scheduled for January 20, 2015, although this date may be subject to change. Changes to the proposal schedule will be posted as addenda to the Request for Proposal documents.

One printed, hardcopy original and five copies of all proposal material and supporting documents (including the Technical Proposal requirements, the Cost Proposal requirements, and all supplementary data requested as part of Appendix A, Appendix B, and Appendix C) must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 15-002, Power Supply Resources" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 20, 2015. One electronic copy of the Technical Proposal and related documents, and one electronic copy of the Cost Proposal and related documents, in Adobe pdf format on a DVD, also must be delivered with the other printed, hardcopy proposal materials.

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. Questions or requests for clarification will be considered only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than December 17, 2104 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email addressed to manny.sablan@cucgov.org. CUC will host a Pre-Proposal Conference and Webinar on December 4, 2014 to discuss the Request for Proposals and answer questions. Information regarding the Pre-Proposal Conference and Webinar will be provided to registered proponents.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-008

8" ACP WATERLINE ABANDONMENT FOR SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA EXTENSION PROJECT, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the 8" ACP Waterline Abandonment for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This work consists of disconnecting customer service lateral connections off the 8" ACP and reconnecting these customers on to the proper tank service area distribution main. Work will also consist of installing new gate valve assemblies and the abandonment of the 8" ACP waterline. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is 190 calendar days from date of award of the contract.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a site visit is scheduled on **December 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"8" ACP Waterline Abandonment for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project, Saipan"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 20, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 2, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water & Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Holiday Big Value

Take time off from decorating that Christmas tree and make sure you've got presents underneath. It's the week of Christmas, and that means food, fun, family, friends and last-minute shopping.

While shopping can stress the "happy" out of the holidays, it's a good thing island businesses are ready with great sales pitches that can accommodate both your wallet and your big heart.

From clothing to house items, delectable treats to heart-warming meals, businesses are ready to carry you to the New Year with all they have to offer.

880 Duty Free

Brace yourself for the super deals 880 Duty Free has to offer, with deals for branded items up to a whopping 50-percent off.

880 features brands like Louis Vuitton, Hermes, Cartier, and Caronel, to go with more than 200 brands they have just for your shopping pleasure.

The store prides itself for its luxurious shopping experience, so with these great deals why not make 880 a must-shop place this week? Super deals begin today at 9am and will last until Dec. 31 at the Kanoa Resort Hotel.

PHI Pharmacy

PHI Pharmacy has the drugs you can trust. From today up to the New Year, the pharmacy is offering 10-percent off on all its over-the-counter items other than vitamins and bodybuilding products. Cut out the newspaper coupon to get buying.

iConnnect

Strengthen your bond with family and friends by making sure they are only a call away. iConnect knows you value your holiday networking and is ready to help you with a CAP plan of only $25 a month. The plan comes with 1,000 local call minutes, unlimited SMS in the CNMI and Guam, and unlimited push-to-talk.

That's not all! Available free with the great plan is an i425. This thin and light push-to-talk phone is both convenient and efficient with its voice dialing, voice memo, and array of music ringers.

Vietnam Home Gallery

Loc Thi Vu just opened the Vietnam Home Gallery this year, but she has already made a name for herself for the couple or family looking to give their home a unique and exotic twist.

At 15 percent off, share the Vietnamese aesthetic with fine and delicate glazed pots, silk lanterns, and woodcarvings. The store also has live plants, tea sets, coffee cups, bamboo place mats, entertainment centers, and stocking stuffers that can help make any home a comfy and festive place this Christmas.

Vietnam Home Gallery is open from Tuesday to Thursday from 5pm to 8pm; and on Friday to Monday from 9am to 8pm.

PHO 8 Vietnamese Restaurant

Have a warm, soothing bowl of pho this holiday season at PHO 8 Vietnamese Restaurant. The restaurant is open 24-7 for anyone looking for an authentic bowl of rice noodle, broth soup, and chicken or beef. It's like your mom's chicken noodle, but better! Take a bite of their crunchy spring rolls too, among the other tasty dishes they offer.

Their 20-percent holiday discount offer ends on Jan 31, 2015, more than enough time for you to bring family, lovers, friends, and even more family to a restaurant with quality dishes and a unique bite of Vietnamese life. Come in droves! And leave fully satisfied.

Java Bakery

Java Bakery has given their famous cinnamon rolls a unique twist this holiday season. Available now at the bakery are cinnamon wreaths—rolls in braided form—to satisfy all the sweet teeth at all your holiday get-togethers this season.

And what's a holiday party without a delicious pie or two? Deck your table with Java Bakery's quality, classy and delicious pumpkin, apple, and pecan pies. Make sure you call a day in advance to assure your family gets their well-deserved pies.

And watch out! They come hot and mouth-watering, and may make all the kids, and probably yourself, line up at the wrong side of the feast table this Christmas.

Cinnamon wreaths are similar to our cinnamon rolls, but in a braided form for any holiday occasion!

Our pies come in 3 different flavors; Pumpkin, Apple, and Pecan.

Must give 24 hours notice.

Offer expires 12/31/2014
*While supplies last.

Java Bakery

This coupon is redeemable for $1 off one holiday wreath or pie.

PHO 8
Vietnamese Restaurant
OPEN 24 HOURS
越南牛肉粉
越南餐厅
24 小时营业

20% Discount Promo ends Jan. 31, 2015

If you like to eat Pho you will love our place

FIESTA RESORT · HYATT HOTEL · CORAL TREE AVENUE · PASEO DE MARIANAS · PHO 8 Ground Floor of Micro Beach Hotel · FIRE STATION · BEACH ROAD

P.O. Box 501328, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: 233-1388 | Fax 233-1328 | email: micprt@gmail.com

Holidays SUPERDEALS
UP TO 50% OFF
Including selected items from Caronel
December 22 to 31, 2014
DOORS OPEN AT 9AM
KANOA RESORT HOTEL
880 DUTY FREE

PHI Pharmacy
Diabetes Shoppe
Good Neighbor Pharmacy
Additional 10% OFF
on all OTC items
(except Vitamins and Body Building Products)
Valid from December 22nd to 31st, 2014
Navy Hill (CHC) Tel. (670) 323-5000/01 • Fax (670) 323-5011
Monday-Friday: 8am - 6pm | Saturday & Sunday: 8am - 4pm
Dandan (Joeten) Tel. (670) 235-6170/74 • Fax (670) 235-6180
Monday-Friday: 8am - 6pm | Saturday: 8am - 4pm
PHI Pharmacy...the pharmacy you can trust!
Present this ad upon payment to avail the discount.

Happy Holidays
From the only cell company on island that protects you from high monthly billings.
CAP PLAN $25/month
1000 Local Call Minutes
Unlimited Local SMS
Local Calls and SMS include Guam and the CNMI.
Unlimited Push-To-Talk
Excess local calls - 10¢/minute • Once your usage reaches $45* your local calls become UNLIMITED for the month.
FREE* i425 THINNEST & LIGHTEST PUSH-TO-TALK PHONE • VOICE DIALING • VOICE MEMO • REAL-MUSIC RINGERS
OTHER FEATURES & OPTIONS

Per Unit	Value Added Services
$6/mo	Unlimited Nationwide (US) SMS
$10/mo	Unlimited Nationwide (US) Calling
3¢/SMS	Philippines SMS to Sun Cellular
5¢/SMS	To all other RP networks

*FREE phone with 24-month sign-up to the $25 Cap Plan. Phone models may vary and are subject to availability. Some conditions apply.
/iconnectguam | iconnectsaipan.com | 888-8888
GROUND FLOOR HK PANGELINAN BLDG. MIDDLE ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU, SAIPAN MP 96950
iCONNECT Push-To-Talk That Works!

CNMI JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT COMPANY PROGRAM TRADE FAIR

Young business skills showcased at Thursday's trade fair

Make Scents and Pacific Bauble, student companies from Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School respectively, once again brought their products to market at the Junior Achievement Company Program Trade Fair last Thursday, Dec. 18, at the Garapan Street Market.

"The trade fair is a key event for the JA Company Program as it, along with other sales events, provide opportunities for our students to sharpen their sales and other business skills. Although not their first sales event, the trade fair is set apart from the other sales events in that it was judged by a panel of business professionals," said CDA Economic Development Analyst/JA Company Program coordinator Carlinen B. Sablan.

Make Scents showcased and sold Saipan Breeze, a line of fabric/air fresheners while Pacific Bauble offered Charmies, cellphone/electronics charm accessories.

Sablan said these talented and young entrepreneurs conceptualized and created their respective products in just eight weeks. And with Christmas just around the corner, the trade fair was a perfect opportunity to get unique gifts for family and friends while supporting the young entrepreneurs and Junior Achievers, she added.

The CNMI Junior Achievement Company Program, the Commonwealth Development Authority and the CNMI Public School System thank program volunteers and supporters including the Bank of Hawaii, the Youth Affairs Office of the Office of the Governor, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Island Training Solutions, Marianas Medical Center, and Friends First Marketing, Inc. for making the JA Trade Fair Competition possible.

About Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement is a worldwide non-profit organization that provides educational programs for youth to gain the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future and make smart academic and economic choices. Corporate and community volunteers deliver relevant, hands-on experiences that give students the knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship.

Junior Achievement is one of the largest non-profit organizations worldwide dedicated to inspiring youth to own their future and their economic success. Junior Achievement is a 121-member network across the world with reach to more than 10 million students and powered by more than 430,000 volunteers from all sectors of society. ***(PR)***

PSS stops probe after San Nicolas resigns

The Public School System was in the process of investigating Eric San Nicolas for having inappropriate relationships with students during his time as a teacher and principal at Tinian High School. During that investigation, the PSS did not find evidence to support a finding that he has inappropriate relationships with students of Tinian High School. In December 2014, Eric San Nicolas voluntarily resigned as vice principal at Saipan Southern High School to pursue other endeavors. PSS has stopped its inquiry and process. PSS takes all allegations of misconduct by its employees seriously and will continue to put the welfare of its students first. ***(PSS)***

Search for missing crewmember off Palau

PALAU—A search is being conducted for a missing crewmember from a 423-foot container ship approximately 210 nautical miles south-south-east of Palau.

During the evening of Dec. 19, 2014, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam received a report from Japan Coast Guard regarding a man overboard from the Panama flagged cargo ship *BEAGEL 1*. The man was last seen wearing yellow clothing. The vessel conducted initial searches of the area.

Sector Guam is coordinating search efforts with multiple resources to include: *BEAGEL 1*, a U.S. Navy P-8 aircraft from Kadena Air Base in Japan, and the Palau patrol boat PSS *President H. I. Remeliik*. ***(USCG)***

GIVING HEARTS KHS AYUYU BATTALION

The Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion cadets donate over 200 food items for needy families for the Christmas holidays. The KHS JROTC Ayuyu Battalion wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas. From left to right: C/2LT Nathan Santos, C/2LT Anthony Torres, C/MAJ Jerry Borja, C/LTC Paolo Reyes, and C/1LT Kris Butters.

Guam wharf project improves support for Navy mission

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Capt. Andy Anderson, commanding officer, Naval Base Guam, and Capt. Douglas King, executive officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, join other Navy and civilian officials at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Tango Wharf extension on Dec. 18.

SANTA RITA, Guam--The Tango Wharf extension ribbon cutting ceremony on U.S. Naval Base Guam, conducted here Dec. 18 in a 9am ceremony, celebrates the improvements in infrastructure and capabilities the base can provide to support the Navy's mission.

"This is a commitment at the end of the day and it's a commitment by the United States of America," said Capt. Andy Anderson, commanding officer, NBG. "It's a commitment by the armed forces to our regional and strategic partners throughout this area."

The purpose for the extension to the wharf was to provide infrastructure, improvements and utilities for cold iron berthing for transient ships such as the Amphibious Readiness Group, its combatant escort ships and the Joint High Speed Vessel.

"You look at this wharf and what it will provide, with regards to the Joint High Speed Vessel, with regards to the Amphibious Ready Group, and with the pivot to the Pacific," said Anderson, "this is an incredible asset that will allow us to project power forward from the sovereign territory of the United States of America."

The cold iron berthing would give ships the capability to connect to an electrical power source at the wharf that allows the ship to turn off its main and auxiliary engines. These improvements are necessary to support the relocation of the III Marine Expeditionary Forces from Okinawa to Guam.

"To look close at what was done here was quite a feat and I think of the warfighter," said Capt. Douglas King, executive officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas. "I think of projecting power, as Andy said, and being able to be at the forefront in this world to defend the world and I say that because I think we have the best Navy in the world."

A 1993 earthquake struck the island that damaged Tango Wharf, leaving the structure unusable. A previous project repaired part of the wharf; however approximately 315 feet remained unimproved.

NAVFAC Marianas awarded the contract to Overland Federal and HNTB Corp. on Nov. 28, 2012. The project was competed Sept. 30, with a final cost of $14.9 million.

The new Tango Wharf has new mooring and berthing systems, and utilities and wharf storm drainage systems as well as structural improvements that can resist seismic and typhoon conditions. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 12th birthday Rimu Oikawa, who is celebrating her special day today. Welcome to Saipan! Greetings coming out from your family and friends.

Business

Tick-tock: Tips for last-minute shoppers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)--The clock is ticking, and your holiday shopping list isn't complete.

Don't fret--you aren't alone.

The National Retail Federation found that only about half of shoppers had finished shopping as of Dec. 10. That means tens of millions will be ticking those final items off their lists in the coming days.

But procrastination doesn't have to mean desperation. Here are a few tips to help survive last-minute shopping:

• **SEIZE THE DAY:** Retailers know the rush is coming, and they are doing everything they can to attract last-minute shoppers. This includes extended shopping hours, expedited shipping and exclusive promotions.

That opens up lots of strategies for shopping that will keep you out of the crazy lines in stores at noon on Christmas Eve.

One tactic is to become a night owl. Many retailers are open longer in the week before Christmas. For example, Wal-Mart says its stores are open 24 hours a day up until 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve and it is offering shipping options up until Dec. 23. Toys R Us stores are open around the clock from the morning of Dec. 23 through 9 p.m. Christmas Eve; it also is extending its hours in the days preceding.

And many retailers, such as Best Buy, allow shoppers to find an item online and pick it up at a store. Even 7-Eleven is targeting shoppers, offering gift cards, toys and stocking stuffers in its stores.

The bottom line: Take advantage of those last-minute discounts and other deals.

• **DO YOUR HOMEWORK:** Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at market researcher NPD Group, says many people do not yet know what they want to give, or get.

"These consumers are the ones who put themselves in a stressful situation," he said. "The one saving grace is online (shopping) is a chance for a lot of people to do their homework."

He said shoppers can narrow down their options ahead of time by looking online.

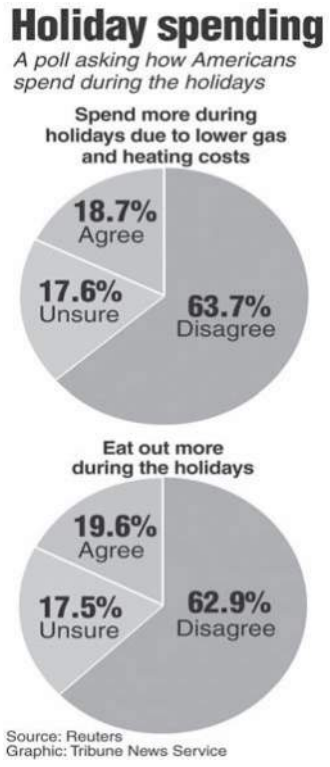
You can also check Amazon.com to see if the person has a wish list you didn't know about, or study Facebook or Pinterest pages for ideas.

Such prep work can save a lot of headaches and potentially limit last-minute impulse purchases that can prove costly.

• **WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES:** Seriously, this is a common-sense step many shoppers skip.

"Wear comfortable shoes for goodness sake," Cohen said. "It (shopping) is exercise and it's not very comfortable."

Don't waste time cruising to find the closest spot to the store either, he said. Those comfortable shoes will make it easier to just park and walk.



Sony on shelving The Interview: 'We had no choice but to cancel'

NEW YORK (AP)--Following pointed criticism from President Barack Obama for shelving "The Interview," Sony Pictures Entertainment on Friday defended its decision, claiming it had no choice but to cancel the film's Christmas Day theatrical release.

Obama said during a press conference Friday that Sony "made a mistake" in dropping "The Interview." However, the studio fired back, saying the cancellation happened only because the country's top theater chains pulled out. "This was their decision," Sony said in a statement.

"Without theaters, we could not release it in the theaters on Christmas Day. We had no choice."

Sony insists it has only cancelled the Christmas Day release and that it has been "actively surveying alternatives" to release the film on a different platform.

"It is still our hope that anyone who wants to see this movie will get the opportunity to do so," said Sony.

The back-and-forth volleying between one of Hollywood's top studios and the President of the United States was only the latest dramatic turn in the four weeks since a hacker group calling itself Guardians of Peace crippled Sony Pictures' computer systems and began leaking emails and data, insisting that the Seth Rogen North Korea satire not be released. The hacking escalated to terrorist threats against theaters showing the film. On Friday, the FBI officially named North Korea as the source of the hacking attacks.

Since Wednesday when Sony cancelled the film's Dec. 25 release, the studio has come under withering criticism by those who have said capitulating to hackers sets a dangerous precedent. Everyone from George Clooney to Newt Gingrich has bitterly reproached Sony for what they've called self-censorship that goes against American ideals of freedom of expression. Obama said the same Friday morning.

"I wish they had spoken to me first," said Obama in a press conference. "We cannot have a society in which some dictatorship someplace can start imposing censorship."

But in an interview with CNN on Friday, Sony Pictures Entertainment CEO Michael Lynton disputed that, saying: "The President, the press and the public are mistaken about what happened." He also said that he spoke to a senior adviser in the White House about the situation.

"We were taken by surprise by the theaters, which is what we wanted to do first. Now we're trying to proceed and figure out what the next steps would be," Lynton told CNN.

By putting the blame at the feet of North American exhibitors, Sony seemingly appears to contradict earlier accounts of events.

The top multiplex chains in North America dropped "The Interview" on Wednesday only after Sony informed them that it would not protest if the theaters pulled the film. At the time, Regal Cinemas partly attributed cancelling "The Interview" "due to wavering support of the film." AMC Entertainment noted "the overall confusion and uncertainty" surrounding the movie. Representatives for Regal, AMC, and Carmike did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

A spokeswoman for Sony also earlier seemingly crushed hopes of a video-on-demand or digital release of "The Interview," saying on Wednesday that Sony had no plans to release it.

Sony has been removing promotional materials for "The Interview" from its websites and trailers of the film from YouTube. Sony employees on Friday received an email from the hackers praising the "wise" decision to withdraw the film and warned against distributing it in "any format."

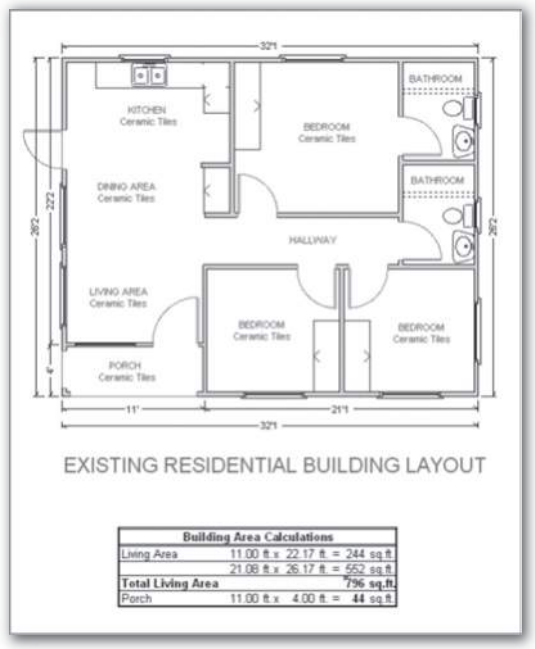
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp
Tels: (670) 234-6866/9447/7689/7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	011 G 1155	HASGNOT DR., CORNER LEMMAI WAY,
MINIMUM BID :	$49,100.00	KAGMAN III

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2015 subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for this property shall be $49,100.00.
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for this property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facisimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of F.Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.



EXISTING RESIDENTIAL BUILDING LAYOUT

Dated this 17th day of December, 2014.

/S/Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. ABRAHAM E. TAISACAN and LYDIA O. TAISACAN, Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 13-0093 AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**

AMENDED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 27th day of December, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 21st day of January, 2015 at 10 a.m., at the Bank of Guam, District II, Songsong Village, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 001 R 22, (formerly known as Lot 10, Block 19), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 R 00, the original of which was registered on November 12, 1971 as Document No. 1288 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 3rd day of December, 2014.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Nation

AP sources: Cops' killer angry at chokehold death

NEW YORK (AP)--A gunman who announced online that he was planning to shoot two "pigs" in retaliation for the police chokehold death of Eric Garner ambushed two officers in a patrol car and shot them to death in broad daylight Saturday before running to a subway station and killing himself, authorities said.

The suspect, 28-year-old Ismaaiyl Brinsley, wrote on an Instagram account: "I'm putting wings on pigs today. They take 1 of ours, let's take 2 of theirs," officials said. He used the hashtags Shootthepolice RIPErivGardner (sic) RIPMikeBrown.

Police said he approached the passenger window of a marked police car and opened fire, striking Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu in the head. The New York Police Department officers were on special patrol doing crime reduction work in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn.

"They were, quite simply, assassinated - targeted for their uniform," said Police Commissioner Bill Bratton, who looked pale and shaken at a hospital news conference.

Brinsley took off running as officers pursued him down to a nearby subway station, where he shot himself in the head. A silver handgun was recovered at the scene, Bratton said.

"This may be my final post," Brinsley wrote in the Instagram post that included an image of a silver handgun. The post had more than 200 likes.

AP

New York Police Department Commissioner Bill Bratton speaks alongside Mayor Bill de Blasio, left, and NYPD's Chief of Department James O'Neill, right, during a news conference at Woodhull Medical Center, Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014, in New York.

Bratton confirmed that the suspect made very serious "anti-police" statements online but did not get into specifics of the posts. He said they were trying to figure out why Brinsley had chosen to kill the officers. Two city officials with direct knowledge of the case confirmed the posts to The Associated Press. The officials, a senior city official and a law enforcement official, were not authorized to speak publicly on the topic and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The shootings come at a tense time; Police in New York and nationwide are being criticized for their tactics, following the July death of Garner, who was stopped on suspicion of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes. Amateur video captured an officer wrapping his arm around Garner's neck and wrestling him to the ground. Garner was heard gasping, "I can't breathe" before he lost consciousness and later died.

Demonstrators around the country have staged die-ins and other protests since a grand jury decided Dec. 3 not to indict the officer in Garner's death, a decision that closely followed a Missouri grand jury's refusal to indict a white officer in the fatal shooting of Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old. Bratton said they were investigating whether the suspect had attended any rallies or demonstrations.

Brinsley was black; the officers were Asian and Hispanic, police said.

The Rev. Al Sharpton said Garner's family had no connection to the suspect and denounced the violence.

"Any use of the names of Eric Garner and Michael Brown in connection with any violence or killing of police, is reprehensible and against the pursuit of justice in both cases," Sharpton said.

Brown's family also released a statement condemning the shooting. "We must work together to bring peace to our communities," the statement says. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the officers' families during this incredibly difficult time."

Mayor Bill de Blasio said the killing of the officers in the nation's largest department strikes at the heart of the city.

"Our city is in mourning. Our hearts are heavy," said de Blasio, who spoke softly with moist eyes. "It is an attack on all of us."

Scores of officers in uniform lined up three rows deep lined the hospital driveway and stretched into the street, their hands raised in a silent salute, as two ambulances bore the slain officers' bodies away. The mayor ordered flags at half-staff.

In a statement Saturday night, Attorney General Eric Holder condemned the shooting deaths as senseless and "an unspeakable act of barbarism." President Barack Obama, in a statement issued while he's vacationing in Hawaii, said he unconditionally condemns the slayings.

"The officers who serve and protect our communities risk their own safety for ours every single day - and they deserve our respect and gratitude every single day," Obama said. "Tonight, I ask people to reject violence and words that harm, and turn to words that heal - prayer, patient dialogue, and sympathy for the friends and family of the fallen."

Early Saturday, Bratton said, Brinsley went to the home of a former girlfriend in the Baltimore area and shot and wounded her. Police there said they noticed Brinsley posting to the woman's Instagram account about a threat to New York officers. Baltimore-area officials sent a warning to New York City police, who received it around the time of the shooting, Bratton said.

North Korea proposes joint probe over Sony hacking

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)--North Korea proposed a joint investigation with the U.S. into the hacking attack against Sony Pictures Entertainment, warning of "serious" consequences if Washington rejects a probe that it believes would prove Pyongyang had nothing to do with the cyberattack.

The proposal was seen by analysts as a typical ploy by the North to try to show that it is sincere, even though it knows the U.S. would never accept its offer for a joint investigation.

U.S. officials blame North Korea for the hacking, citing the tools used in the Sony attack and previous hacks linked to the North, and have vowed to respond. The break-in resulted in the disclosure of tens of thousands of confidential Sony emails and business files, and escalated to threats of terror attacks against U.S. movie theaters that caused Sony to cancel the Christmas Day release of "The Interview," a comedy about a plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

On Saturday, an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman in Pyongyang proposed the joint investigation with the U.S., saying the North knows how to prove it's not responsible for the hacking. He also said Washington was slandering Pyongyang by spreading unfounded rumors.

"The U.S. should bear in mind that it will face serious consequences in case it rejects our proposal for joint investigation and presses for what it called countermeasures while finding fault with" North Korea, the spokesman said in a statement carried by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA.

"We have a way to prove that we have nothing to do with the case without resorting to torture, as the CIA does," he said, adding that the U.S. lacks any specific evidence tying North Korea to the hacking.

In Washington, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, Mark Stroh, said the U.S. stands by the FBI's conclusion that "the North Korean government is responsible for this destructive attack."

"The government of North Korea has a long history of denying responsibility for destructive and provocative actions," Stroh said. "If the North Korean government wants to help, they can admit their culpability and compensate Sony for the damages this attack caused."

The United States was reaching out to China, North Korea's key ally, for help as President Barack Obama weighs possible responses to the cyberattack, said a senior administration official, who wasn't authorized to comment by name and requested anonymity. Although China holds considerable leverage over the North and its technological infrastructure, involving Beijing could pose complications because Obama has pointedly accused China of engaging in its own acts of cybertheft.

ACROSS THE NATION

Michael Brown's family condemns shootings of NYC officers

The family of Michael Brown, who was killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, has released a statement condemning the shooting deaths of two New York City officers. The statement released Saturday by the Parks & Crump law firm says Brown's family rejects "any kind of violence directed toward members of law enforcement. It cannot be tolerated." It calls on citizens to "work together to bring peace to our communities." The brief statement concludes saying, "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the officers' families during this incredibly difficult time." A Missouri grand jury refused to indict the white officer who shot Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old.

2 dozen injured in southern Indiana bus crash

SEYMOUR, Ind. (AP) -- A double-decker bus headed from Chicago to Atlanta slid off a highway in southern Indiana and rolled onto its side early Saturday, injuring 24 people, authorities said. The bus, operated by Megabus and carrying 68 passengers, veered off the road at around 5:30 a.m. on Interstate 65 in Seymour, State Police Trooper Clifton Elston said. The most serious injury was a broken collarbone, and most of the others were treated for minor cuts, Trooper Tommy Walker said. Two of the 26 passengers brought to Schneck Medical Center in Seymour refused treatment. The bus driver, Christopher Kelley of Olympia Fields, Illinois, told police he was in the left lane and moving to the right lane when he lost control and slid onto the grassy median, Trooper Matt Holley said. Walker said speed and the weather may have contributed to the accident.

4 teens die in fiery head-on crash in Pennsylvania

PALMERTON, Pa. (AP) -- Authorities say speed was a factor in a fiery head-on crash in eastern Pennsylvania that claimed the lives of four teens and left one car upside-down and another split in two. State troopers in Carbon County said Saturday afternoon that the four were in a sedan heading west on Dairy Road in Lower Towamensing Township that collided with an eastbound car shortly before 8:30 p.m. Friday. Police said both vehicles overturned and caught fire, while the car carrying the teens smashed into a tree and was ripped in half. Police said the driver - listed by police as 17 but said by the coroner's office to be 19 - was killed along with two 16-year-old boys and a 13-year-old girl. An 18-year-old female and a 22-year-old man were hospitalized.

Asia

10 years later, where did all the tsunami debris go?

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)—Cars. Fishing boats. Houses. Entire villages. The 2004 tsunami left Banda Aceh with mountains of debris up to 6 kilometers (4 miles) inland.

Driving in the remade communities today, it's easy to wonder where it all went. Some of it is still there—recycled into road materials, buildings and furniture. Some of it was burned, creating new environmental hazards. And most of it was simply washed out to sea.

Ten years after that gigantic wave engulfed this city of 4 million on the day after Christmas, Banda Aceh has been almost totally restored. The tangled mountains of rubbish are gone, and it's hard to imagine the destruction that once choked rivers, blocked streets and ripped up trees by the roots.

The endless heaps of twisted metal, splintered wood and broken concrete have all disappeared except for some scattered reminders for tourists and local residents. A drive along the coast highlights a stunning coastline with new houses perched near the beach. Lush mangroves have been planted to help withstand future tsunamis, fishermen are back at sea and farmers are again working their rice paddies.

Still, authorities are concerned about the health and environmental risks posed by debris contaminated by oil, asbestos and medical waste sitting on the seafloor off the coast and in 32 unregulated dump sites around the city.

"Unsafe disposal of waste will cause further environmental damage in the long term," said Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, who headed the Aceh and Nias Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency, which led the massive clean-up effort and was dissolved in 2009 after the job was judged finished.

Banda Aceh, located on the northern tip of Indonesia's Sumatra island, was the hardest hit city by the disaster, which devastated hundreds of communities in more than a dozen countries around the Indian Ocean.

The tsunami left an estimated 10 million cubic meters (13 million cubic yards) of debris here, most of it washed into the ocean, Mangkusubroto said. If all that was squeezed into a 1-hectare (2 1/2 acre) field, it would create a tower of trash 1,000 meters (3,000 feet) tall.

Cleaning up the wrecked city was a mammoth, often overwhelming, task.

For weeks, the streets were strewn with rubble, and rescue workers retrieved dead bodies from under houses and in ponds, said Abdul Mutalib Ahmad, who worked at Banda Aceh's only landfill and witnessed the tsunami from atop a three-story building.

"Debris was everywhere," he said. "We thought we were facing severe public health problem with the massive amount of waste."

At first, many survivors simply burned wood and other garbage. But authorities discouraged them from doing that because it polluted the air and could expose them to harmful toxins that might lead to respiratory problems. Some trash was covered with oil or chemicals, making it extremely flammable and hazardous, and in at least one case, a fire spread uncontrollably over a large area.

As key roads were cleared, trucks began carting tons of debris to the landfill every day for at least a year, Ahmad said.

But some waste inevitably got dumped at random sites around the city. They still contain leaky oil drums and asbestos-laced housing materials.

Hazardous waste that was found among the rubble was buried in a separate marked area inside the city's landfill, according to Tomi Soetjipto, the Indonesia spokesman for the U.N. Development Program, which oversaw much of the clean-up. And nearly 50 tons of expired medications—some of it donated after the tsunami—sit in a warehouse awaiting safe disposal.

Three months after the tsunami, the UNDP started a $40.5 million recycling program that employed 400,000 temporary workers to pluck wood and stone from the rubble and use the materials to rebuild roads and houses as well as to make furniture. The recycled waste was used to reconstruct 100 kilometers (62 miles) of roads and manufacture 12,000 pieces of wooden furniture, Mangkusubroto said.

SIDEBAR

Numbers that tell the story

Facts and figures from the Dec. 26, 2004, Indian Ocean tsunami. Sources include the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition and UNESCO:

■ 9.1: Magnitude of the earthquake that set off the tsunami. Centered off the west coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island, it was the world's third-largest earthquake since 1900.

■ 20 meters (65 feet): Height of the biggest waves to hit land, in Indonesia's Aceh region.

■ 23,000: Number of Hiroshima-type atomic bombs it would take to equal the amount of energy released by the earthquake.

■ About 230,000: Number of people killed.

■ 3: Number of natural disasters in the last century that killed even more people. More than 1 million people died in flooding in China in 1931; a cyclone left more than 300,000 dead in Bangladesh in 1970; an earthquake in China killed at least 255,000 people in 1976.

■ 14: Number of countries where people died in the tsunami. Indonesia suffered the most deaths (167,540), followed by Sri Lanka (35,322), India (16,269), Thailand (8,212), Somalia (289), Maldives (108), Malaysia (75), Myanmar (61) and Tanzania (13). Two each died in Bangladesh, Seychelles, South Africa and Yemen, and one died in Kenya.

■ 38: Number of other countries who lost citizens. Most were from Europe, including 500 each from Germany and Sweden.

■ 1.7 million: Number of people displaced.

■ $9.9 billion: Damage estimate across the affected countries.

■ $4.5 billion: Estimated damage in Aceh alone. The number represented 97 percent of the region's GDP.

■ $13.5 billion: The record amount raised around the world to help tsunami victims.

■ $7,100: Amount raised per affected person.

■ $3: Amount raised per person in another 2004 disaster: flooding in Bangladesh that killed at least 766 people and affected more than 30 million others.

■ 16,000: Number of permanent houses built in Aceh within a year of the disaster—far less than the need. Inflation and bureaucracy complicated rebuilding.

■ 130,000: Number of permanent houses build in Aceh within three years of the disaster.

■ 0, 4 and 13: Numbers—respectively—of deep ocean tsunameters, coastal sea level gauges and broadband seismometers monitoring conditions in the Indian Ocean when the tsunami hit.

■ 9, more than 100 and more than 140: Numbers of those instruments in place in 2014.

World

Raul Castro to US: Don't expect detente to change Cuban system

HAVANA (AP)—Cuban President Raul Castro sent a blunt message to Washington Saturday as the White House works to reverse a half-century of hostility between the U.S. and Cuba: Don't expect detente to do away with the communist system.

Castro's speech to Cuba's National Assembly was a sharp counterpoint to the message U.S. President Barack Obama gave in his year-end news conference the day before. Obama reiterated that by engaging directly with the Cuban people, Americans are more likely to encourage reform in Cuba's one-party system and centrally planned economy.

"We must not expect that in order for relations with the United States to improve, Cuba will abandon the ideas that it has struggled for," Castro said.

Also appearing before parliament, shaking their fists in victory, were three convicted spies just released from long U.S. prison terms. The last imprisoned members of the "Cuban Five" spy ring were freed this week in a sweeping deal that included American contractor Alan Gross and a Cuban who had spied for the U.S., both released from their cells in Cuba as a first step toward the restoration of full diplomatic ties and a loosening of U.S. trade and travel restrictions.

While the 83-year-old Castro spoke in Havana, other Cubans of his generation were leading a protest in Miami against plans to normalize relations with the Castro government. About 200 people showed up, most of them older Cuban exiles.

"The Cuban resistance will continue both on the island and in exile to do everything and continue the struggle until Cuba is truly free and democratic once again," said Sylvia Iriondo, an activist with Mothers Against Repression.

Castro also expressed gratitude to Obama during his speech, calling it a "just decision" to release the men who spied on anti-Castro exile groups in South Florida in the 1990s and have long been regarded as heroes in Cuba. Seated behind the three and their families was Elian Gonzalez, the young Cuban rafter at the center of a bitter custody battle in 2000 between relatives in Miami and his father in Cuba.

The president closed with a shout of "Viva Fidel!" in reference to his older brother, who has not been seen nor heard from since the historic development was announced on Wednesday, provoking speculation about his health and whereabouts.

Australian woman charged with murder of 8 children

SYDNEY (AP)—An Australian woman was charged with murder on Sunday in the deaths of seven of her children and her niece, whose bodies were found inside her home, police said.

Mersane Warria, 37, was charged with eight counts of murder in a bedside hearing at a hospital in the northern city of Cairns where she is recovering from stab wounds, Queensland state police said.

Police were called to the home in the Cairns suburb of Manoora on Friday morning after receiving a report of a woman with serious injuries. When they got to the house, they found the bodies, along with Warria, who was suffering from stab wounds to the chest.

Police haven't said how the children died, but Queensland Police Detective Inspector Bruno Asnicar said they're examining several knives in the home that may have been the weapon used to kill them. Suffocation was also a possible cause of death, he said.

"We are considering that and that's why it's taking a bit of time," he said. "It could be a range of things, from suffocation to a thousand other things."

Officials were still trying to determine exactly what happened inside the house, and had collected more than 100 witness statements, he said. A coroner was conducting autopsies, but police would not be releasing the results as the case was now a matter for the courts, he said.

AP

Police patrol near a house where eight children have been found dead in a Cairns suburb in far north Queensland, Australia, Friday Dec 19, 2014.

The children, four girls and four boys, ranged in age from 2 to 14. Warria is the mother of seven of them; the eighth is her niece.

Police were not looking for any other suspects, Asnicar said. A hearing was scheduled for Monday, but Warria was excused from attending. Police planned to oppose any request for bail, Ascinar said.

"This is very raw and it is a very emotive time for everybody," he said. "The family is deeply upset but the community is pulling together. "

Asked how the children's five fathers were coping with the tragedy, Ascinar replied: "I don't think we need much imagination to understand how they are feeling."

Dozens of weeping mourners visited a makeshift memorial of flowers, stuffed animals and candles set up in a park next to the family's home. "My babies, my babies," one man wailed.

A church service was held on Sunday morning to honor the children and a candlelight vigil was scheduled for the evening.

The tragedy comes as Australia is still reeling from the shock of a deadly siege in a Sydney cafe. Last week, a gunman burst into the cafe in the heart of the city and took 18 hostages, two of whom were killed along with the gunman after police stormed in 16 hours later to end the standoff. Police had earlier said there were 17 hostages in the cafe, but revised the number after a new count.

"The news out of Cairns is heartbreaking," Prime Minister Tony Abbott said in a statement. "All parents would feel a gut-wrenching sadness at what has happened. This is an unspeakable crime. These are trying days for our country."

Life & Style

Muhammad Ali hospitalized with pneumonia

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Boxing great Muhammad Ali was hospitalized with a mild case of pneumonia that was caught early and should result in a short hospital stay, an Ali spokesman said Saturday night.

The three-time world heavyweight champion, who is battling Parkinson's disease, is being treated by his team of doctors and is in stable condition, said his spokesman, Bob Gunnell.

"He went into the hospital this morning," Gunnell said in a phone interview. "He has a mild case of pneumonia and the prognosis is good."

Gunnell declined to say where the 72-year-old Ali is hospitalized. He indicated that Ali's bout of pneumonia was caught quickly.

"This all came about this morning," Gunnell said.

No other details are being released due to the Ali family's request for privacy, he said.

Ali's public appearances have diminished in recent years as he continues to battle Parkinson's disease, but he still enjoys getting out and watching sports and visiting friends.

AP

In this Monday, Dec. 3, 2012, file photo, the former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali, center, is crowned "King of Boxing" while accompanied by his wife, Lonnie, right, and Argentine boxer Sergio Martinez during the 50th convention of the World Boxing Council in Cancun, Mexico.

Ali appeared in public in September at a ceremony in his hometown of Louisville for the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Awards. Ali did not speak to the crowd but posed for photos with award winners, including former NFL great Jim Brown.

Brown leaned over and whispered to the seated Ali during the photo session. Later, Brown said he told Ali: "You're the greatest of all time."

Ali retired from boxing in 1981 and devoted himself to social causes. He traveled the world on humanitarian missions, mingling with the masses and rubbing elbows with world leaders.

Ali received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2005.

The Muhammad Ali Center, in Louisville, is dedicated to Ali's humanitarian causes and showcases his boxing career.

Ali and his wife, Lonnie, have homes in Paradise Valley, Arizona; Berrien Springs, Michigan; and in Louisville.

Sony saga blends foreign intrigue, star wattage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The hackers who hit Sony Pictures Entertainment days before Thanksgiving crippled the network, stole gigabytes of data and spilled into public view unreleased films and reams of private and sometimes embarrassing executive emails.

One month later, the Obama administration confirmed what many had suspected: The North Korean government was behind the punishing breach. U.S. officials are promising a response, unspecified so far.

It was an extraordinarily public reaction from the highest levels of American government, considering that far more vital domestic interests have taken hits from foreign hackers in recent years—including the military, major banks and makers of nuclear and solar power whose trade secrets were siphoned off in a matter of mouse clicks.

Yet even in a digital era with an endless cycle of cyberattacks, none has drawn the public's attention like the Sony breach and its convergence of sensational plotlines:

■ an isolated dictator half a world away.

■ damaging Hollywood gossip from the executive suite.

■ threats of terrorism against Christmas Day moviegoers.

■ the American president chastising a corporate decision to shelve a satirical film.

■ normally reticent law enforcement agencies laying bare their case against the suspected culprits.

"I can't remember the U.S. talking about a proportional response to Chinese espionage or infiltration of critical infrastructure for that matter, as a policy issue in the same way that we're talking about this today," said Jacob Olcott, a cyberpolicy and legal issues expert at Good Harbor Security Risk Management and a former adviser to Congress.

President Barack Obama said Friday the U.S. would respond to the cyberattack, though he did not say how, after the FBI publicly blamed North Korea. He also criticized Sony's decision to cancel the release of "The Interview," a comedy about a plot to assassinate North Korea's leader.

"This is uncharted territory," said Chris Finan, a former White House cybersecurity adviser. "The things we do in response to this event will indelibly serve to influence future nation state behavior."

SIDEBAR

5 comedy alternatives to 'The Interview'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kim Jong Un isn't alone.

Queen Elizabeth II, Saddam Hussein and Pope Pius XIII have also been the targets of wacky assassination attempts on film.

But those world leaders actually made it to the multiplex, while the demise of the North Korean dictator in Sony Pictures' beleaguered "The Interview" remains on the studio shelf.

With no immediate plans to release the Seth Rogen comedy, following threats of theater violence by North Korean hackers, holiday moviegoers with a hankering for an over-the-top plot to kill a real world leader can still do it on the download in the safety of their own homes. A few options:

• "Zoolander" (2001): In a scheme to maintain cheap child labor in Malaysia, Will Ferrell's tyrannical fashion mogul Jacobim Mugatu attempts to brainwash Ben Stiller's spikey-haired supermodel Derek Zoolander into eliminating the country's new prime minister. Mugatu programs Zoolander to do the deed whenever he hears "Relax" by Frankie Goes to Hollywood.

■ "Team America: World Police" (2004): A decade before he was a target in "The Interview," Kim Jong Un's father was depicted as a sad-sack villain in this farcical marionette musical from the creators of "South Park." A puppetty Kim Jong Il (voiced by Trey Parker) crooning in broken English about his loneliness at the top is one of the film's funniest moments.

■ "Foul Play" (1978): In his first major movie role, Chevy Chase stars with Goldie Hawn as a San Francisco police officer tasked with protecting Hawn's librarian divorcee as the pair uncover a plan to assassinate the visiting Pope Pius XIII during an opera performance. Cyril Magnin, a real-life department store tycoon and philanthropist, played the religious leader.

■ "The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad!" (1988): The original "Naked Gun" installment centered on detective Frank Drebin (the late Leslie Nielsen) similarly foiling an attempt to slay a public figure in a public place. This time, it's a spunky rendition of Queen Elizabeth II during a baseball match-up between the Los Angeles Angels and Seattle Mariners.

■ "Hot Shots! Part Deux" (1993): Before he was executed in the real world, Saddam Hussein (portrayed by Jerry Haleva) faced off against Charlie Sheen's war hero Topper Harley in this wild spoof of cheesy action flicks. In "Part Deux," Hussein is depicted as a bumbling leader with a penchant for doting on his itty-bitty dog and wearing women's underwear.

Craig Ferguson says good night as 'Late Late Show' host

NEW YORK (AP)—Craig Ferguson will spend tomorrow's future yesterdays (as his theme song proclaims) somewhere other than "The Late Late Show." Friday was his last hoorah after a decade as host of the CBS talk show.

Ferguson

And what did we learn (as Ferguson is fond of posing at the end of each hour)? Maybe that it was Bob Newhart all those years disguised as Secretariat the Pantomime Horse?

Secretariat has long been a popular member of the "Late Late Show" stable, but proper credit was never given to the people who brought him to life. That mystery was answered—well, sort of—in the finale.

As Ferguson chatted with his robot sidekick, Geoff, he pondered who it might be inside the horse costume.

"Lift up your head, let's see who you really are," he called across to Secretariat, who was watching from his stall, stage left. Off came the head of the costume to reveal Bob Newhart.

"What are you doing here?" the astonished Ferguson asked.

"Hey, guy, it's YOUR dream," replied the comedy legend, spoofing the classic final scene from his sitcom, "Newhart," a quarter-century ago.

In this case, Ferguson woke up from his dream in bed beside Drew Carey. Had his entire 10 years on "The Late Late Show" all been imagined?

Ferguson's going-away party also featured former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno as his sole guest.

"Just two guys with nothing to do," summed up Ferguson.

"They may take our talk shows," Leno chimed in, "but they will never take our freedom!"

The show kicked off with a pre-taped rendition of "Bang Your Drum," a song by the Scottish band Dead Man Fall, with Ferguson accompanied by dozens of celebs (many of them former guests) including Matthew McConaughey, Betty White, Samuel L. Jackson, Larry King, Regis Philbin, Jane Lynch, Quentin Tarantino, Jimmy Kimmel, William Shatner and even Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

It then transitioned into the studio for a full production number with Ferguson backed by a rock band and choir.

9 films advance in Oscars shortlist for best foreign film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The list of contenders for best foreign film got a bit smaller Friday as the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences announced the nine features that will advance to the next round of voting.

Included are Ruben Ostlund's patriarchy-skewering avalanche film "Force Majeure" from Sweden, Andrey Zvyagintsev's "Leviathan," about a property dispute in a small Russian costal town, and Pawel Pawlikowski's Polish drama "Ida," about a young woman with dreams of being a nun who discovers some dark secrets in her family's past. All recently received Golden Globe nominations, too.

Damian Szifron's black ensemble comedy "Wild Tales," from Argentina, also made the shortlist, as did Estonia's "Tangerines," the Golden Globe-nominated film about a man caring for a wounded soldier.

Other films on the shortlist include Abderrahmane Sissako's "Timbuktu," the first Mauritanian film ever submitted, Georgia's "Corn Island," the Netherlands' "Accused," and Venezuela's "The Liberator."

Missing from the list were a few high profile films, such as the drama "Two Days, One Night," from the Dardennes brothers. Star Marion Cotillard has been singled out for her performance as a young mother in a desperate situation in a number of recent critics' awards. Eighty three countries submitted films for consideration. Xavier Dolan's critically beloved coming-of-age drama "Mommy" also failed to make the cut.

Of the 83 countries who submitted entries, six were chosen by a committee of several hundred Academy members based in Los Angeles who were tasked with screening the original submissions. Three additional features were then added by the Academy's Foreign Language Film Award Executive Committee.

The five final nominees will be selected from this group of films and announced, along with the other Academy Award nominees, live on Jan. 15. Winners will be presented at the 87th Academy Awards on Feb. 22.

Actor Stephen Collins denies he's a pedophile in interview

NEW YORK (AP)—Former "7th Heaven" star Stephen Collins declares he's not a pedophile, and insists he has molested a minor on just one occasion and engaged in sexual misconduct with only three girls in all.

In an interview with Yahoo's Katie Couric released Friday, the embattled actor described himself instead as someone suffering from "exhibitionist urges," "big boundary issues" and "poor impulse control."

Collins

Those issues prompted a physical encounter with an underage girl in 1973. He was 25, she was 10.

According to Collins, the girl had come to visit and stay with him and his first wife. After his wife had gone to sleep, he and the girl were watching TV together.

"I took her hand and moved it in such a way that she was touching me inappropriately," he recalled. Then, after about 45 seconds, "I took her hand and moved it back. I waited a couple of minutes, because I just didn't know what to do or say. And then I got up and left the room." He called the incident "unthinkably wrong."

He also said he exposed himself to a teenage girl in 1982 and another in 1994. There was no physical conduct with either of the girls, who were 12 and 13, he said.

He said he has had no such urges since 1994, and claimed that if any other women come forward claiming to be victims of sexual misconduct by him, "it would not be truthful."

Collins, who is being investigated by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department on molestation allegations but has not been charged with any crime, characterized his actions with the girl and the two teens as "terrible, and I regret them deeply," adding, "I'm absolutely not attracted, physically or sexually attracted, to children. I'm just not."

In response to Couric's direct question, Collins added he has never been attracted to young boys.

Collins said he's been in treatment and religious counseling for 20 years, "and always will be."

"I'm a human being with flaws," he said. "I have dealt with them very, very strongly and committedly in my private life."

In October, TMZ released a 2012 audio recording of Collins purportedly acknowledging molesting underage girls during a marriage-counseling session with his estranged wife, actress Faye Grant. Collins said Grant recorded the session without his or the therapist's consent. Grant has said she gave police the audio only after Collins refused to seek appropriate treatment. But she has denied giving the recording to TMZ.

Within hours of TMZ posting its story, two TV networks announced they were canceling scheduled re-runs of "7th Heaven," and Collins lost roles in the upcoming film "Ted 2" and this season of the ABC series "Scandal." Collins had played a devoted husband, father of seven and minister on the wholesome drama "7th Heaven" for 11 seasons.

Madonna releases 6 songs after leak

NEW YORK (AP)—In a surprise preview of her new album, Madonna released six songs Saturday on iTunes and various streaming services.

The songs were released because several in-progress demos were leaked earlier this week, publicist Liz Rosenberg said.

Madonna said in a statement that she had wanted to wait until a different holiday season.

"I was hoping to release my new single `Living For Love' on Valentine's Day with the rest of the album coming in the spring," she said. "I would prefer my fans to hear completed versions of some of the songs instead of the incomplete tracks that are circulating. Please consider these six songs as an early Christmas gift."

Madonna

Songs available Saturday also include the plaintive, anti-drug "Devil Pray"; the secretive, name-checking dance track "Illuminati"; and a duet with Nicki Minaj, "B---h I'm Madonna." Additional music will be released on Feb. 9, Rosenberg said.

The full album, "Rebel Heart," is Madonna's 13th and is set for release in March. Producers include Madonna, Diplo and Kanye West.

Kim Jong Un game spoof 'Glorious Leader!' moving forward

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The creator of a satirical video game that depicts Kim Jong Un as a gun-toting, unicorn-riding hero has no plans to cancel his zany creation following a cyberattack and threats of violence against Sony Pictures that the FBI has attributed to North Korea.

In fact, "Glorious Leader!" creator Jeff Miller is now more motivated than ever to finish his game.

While North Korea forces have frequently been depicted as the adversary in games, such as "Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon 2" and "Homefront," "Glorious Leader!" cast the nation's leader as the protagonist—with cameos from such folks as Dennis Rodman and Kim Jong Il.

The retro-style, run-and-gun game comically puts players in the shoes of a super-powered Kim Jong Un as he battles waves of American drones and soldiers with weapons like a machine gun and bazooka. Miller is planning levels set in such locations as the streets of Pyongyang and atop Paektu Mountain. He's now planning another on the Sony Pictures backlot.

"We want the game to be a topical as possible," said Miller, adding he hasn't received any threats from North Korea or hackers and isn't afraid of any backlash because the game makes Kim Jong Un "look totally awesome."

Miller's Atlanta, Georgia-based Moneyhorse Games has been independently working on the tongue-in-cheek game off and on for over a year. In response to the fallout from the cyberattack this week, Miller launched a crowdfunding campaign Wednesday asking for $55,000 by Jan. 15 to finish "Glorious Leader!" He had originally planned to release it earlier this year. He'd raised about $3,500 from 151 backers as of mid-day Friday.

"I should probably ask for more funds now to beef up our cybersecurity," Miller said. "We didn't know things were going to get this weird."

Miller, who plans to release the downloadable game for PC and mobile devices, said Thursday he also reached out to Microsoft Corp. and Sony Corp. about making the game available on their respective Xbox and PlayStation consoles. Microsoft declined to distribute "Glorious Leader!" However, he said Sony was responsive when he last communicated with the company in October before the attack.

"I think I'll wait a little while before I reach out to them again," Miller said.

A spokesman for Sony Computer Entertainment of America did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

The FBI formally accused the North Korean government on Friday of being responsible for the hacking attack against Sony, while President Barack Obama said Sony "made a mistake" in halting the Dec. 25 release of "The Interview," a comedy about a plot to assassinate the North Korean leader.

The hackers sent a new message Friday to Sony Pictures Entertainment, gloating over the studio's decision to cancel the release of "The Interview" and warning not to distribute the film in any form.

Lonely soldier must reach out to others for comfort

DEAR ABBY: I am a soldier in Afghanistan who is single with few friends, if you would even call them that. We work 24/7. No days off, no breaks. It's not an easy life. You would not believe how nice it is to receive a message from family or friends.

Don't get me wrong, I have a loving family who support me and everything I do. When I first got here, I'd get a message from them at least once a week. But now that I am seven months into a 12-month deployment, it has been almost two months since I have gotten anything.

Now, I know if I reach out and send a message -- which I have done -- I'll get replies, but am I wrong for not wanting to have to do that? Is it wrong to wish that I could come in, relax, and find a message waiting for me? I know they love me and are busy with their lives, but sometimes it seems that I am forgotten. It would be comforting to know someone is thinking about me. Any day now could be my last.

DEPLOYED SOLDIER

DEAR DEPLOYED SOLDIER: Because you're feeling lonely and forgotten, it's important to let your family and friends back home know how you feel. They are not mind readers. You say you heard from them in the early months of your deployment. But have you reached out to them recently? If you haven't, they may assume you are being kept so busy that you are unable to stay in touch with them. The surest way to get what you need is to communicate -- and that applies to more situations in life than this one.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a senior in high school in Texas. Everyone has decided which college they want to go to and what they want to be. I have no clue. It is frustrating, because when adults ask what my plans for the future are and I say I don't know, they look at me like I'm stupid.

I feel 18 years isn't long enough to figure all that out. I am an introvert, and I would really like to open up a cute little cafe in New York when I am older. But every time I tell someone this is what I'd like to do, they ask how I'm going to make money at it. They're right -- I can't make a living off a coffee shop, especially with the high cost of living in New York.

I'm lost and don't know what to do. I have less than a year to figure things out, and it's starting to stress me. Please give me some advice. I need a friend.

LOST IN TEXAS

DEAR LOST: You not only need a friend, you also need a counselor to help you find direction. If there isn't one at your school, consider discussing this with a career counselor at a nearby university or community college. Some courses in business administration would be valuable for you so you can learn the nuts and bolts about running a business and avoid common mistakes that might cause yours to fail.

Some classes in commercial cooking would also be helpful. If there isn't a trade school nearby that offers them, consider working for a year or two in the restaurant industry to see how it functions. Many of the best chefs in the world started out that way, and you will learn quickly if this is something you really want to pursue.

P.S. Being an introvert doesn't have to stop you, if you partner with someone who's a people person to work the front of the shop and teach you the art of "schmoozing."

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

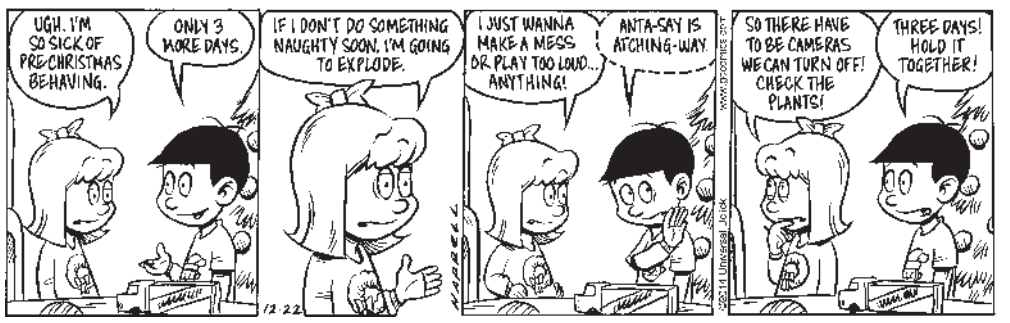
WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET A CHRISTMAS TREE?
OH, I DUNNO. PROBABLY A LITTLE AFTER NEW YEAR'S.
AFTER NEW YEAR??
SURE. WE CAN JUST GO UP THE STREET AND PICK THE BEST TREE FROM THE NEIGHBORS' DRIVEWAYS.
WHAT?!
SOMETIMES THERES STILL TINSEL ON THE TREE TOO, SO YOU DONT EVEN HAVE TO DECORATE IT! WE'LL SAVE TIME AND MONEY!
OK. WHAT DID YOUR DAD TELL YOU THIS TIME?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

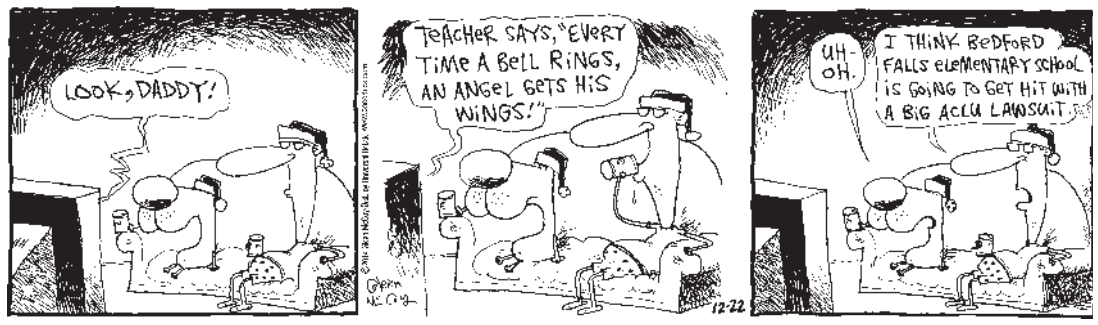
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


UGH. I'M SO SICK OF PRE-CHRISTMAS BEHAVING.
ONLY 3 MORE DAYS.
IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING NAUGHTY SOON, I'M GOING TO EXPLODE.
I JUST WANNA MAKE A MESS OR PLAY TOO LOUD... ANYTHING!
ANTA-SAY IS ATCHING-WAY.
SO THERE HAVE TO BE CAMERAS WE CAN TURN OFF! CHECK THE PLANTS!
THREE DAYS! HOLD IT TOGETHER!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


LOOK, DADDY!
TEACHER SAYS, "EVERY TIME A BELL RINGS, AN ANGEL GETS HIS WINGS!"
UH-OH.
I THINK BEDFORD FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS GOING TO GET HIT WITH A BIG ACLU LAWSUIT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

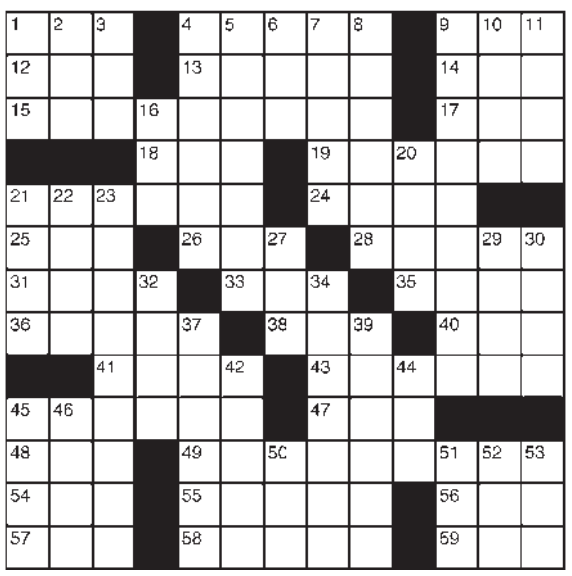
ACROSS
1 Just a handful
4 Northeastern-most state
9 Lunch order, for short
12 Gold, in Guadalajara
13 Noted 2001 bankruptcy
14 Deli loaf
15 Air
17 Indivisible
18 — tai
19 Quick trip
21 Do dilettantishly
24 Put into words
25 This dir.
26 Lorne Michaels show, briefly
28 — vortex
31 Horse's halter?
33 Pitch
35 Forum garment
36 Below, poetically
38 Affirmative
40 Three strikes
41 Let fall
43 Sounds the hour, maybe
45 Burrito alternative
47 Long, crosser
48 Lucy of "Elementary"
49 Hit laterally
54 Branch
55 Bizarre
56 U-boat, for example
57 Swindle
58 Considers
59 Unruly group

DOWN
1 Watch chain
2 Blunder
3 Court
4 Olympians' awards
5 Really old
6 Playwright Levin
7 Olfactory organs
8 Snare
9 Type of woven carpet
10 Singer Loretta
11 Prepared to drive
16 State Dept. figure
20 Laugh-a-minute
21 Sunup
22 Liniment target
23 Track-and-field event
27 Deposit
29 Chills and fever
30 Charlie Brown's interjection
32 Longfellow's "The Bell of —"
34 Get back
37 Rapid growth area
39 Colorations
42 Cole Porter title city
44 "Monty Python" opener
45 Banner
46 Ethereal
50 Raw mineral
51 Doctrine
52 Pair
53 Recede

Solution time: 26 mins.

B	R	A		P	U	B		I	H	A	D	E
L	A	D		I	R	E		H	E	I	N	E
U	T	E		C	A	T	H	E	D	R	A	L
T	I	C		K	N	A	V	E				
F	O	R	K		U	S	A		S	C	O	W
			A	B	S		C	A	T	H	A	Y
O	R	A	T	E				S	U	I	T	E
C	A	T	H	E	R		B	A	T			
T	H	E	Y		O	L	E		Z	I	T	I
			W	A	I	T	S		B	I	N	
C	A	T	H	A	R	T	I	C		S	A	L
F	I	C	O	R		D	O		F	R	A	
C	L	Y	D	E		F	E	T		N	A	Y

Friday's answer 12-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Meghan Trainor, 21; Brooke Nevin, 32; Ralph Fiennes, 52; Diane Sawyer, 69.

Happy Birthday: Build up your strength, courage and your plans for the future. What you do now will bring you added benefits for years to come. Don't let the changes others make hinder you from following your own path. Expand your interests, but protect your savings and your financial stability. Walk away from discord and negativity and engage in relationships that offer equality. Your numbers are 6, 14, 19, 21, 33, 39, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't take what someone says too literally or feel obligated to make choices you aren't ready to make. Bide your time, and something you really want to do will become feasible. Put practicality high on your priority list. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look for the positive in everything, and you will find it. Focus on change, learning something new and applying what you know in order to advance. Set time aside for romance. Travel plans can be made and communication is a priority. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do whatever it takes to change your direction or make self-improvements. Don't venture out into crowded places if you don't have to. Make a point of connecting with someone via phone or email. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't get frazzled over little things that really don't matter. Nothing is so important that you should worry yourself sick about it. Take a step back and let others make changes. Stick to what works for you and don't feel pressured to do otherwise. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Enjoy last-minute shopping, getting in the spirit of the season and having fun with friends, but don't go over budget. Hidden costs will lead to stress if you aren't careful. You cannot buy love, so don't put your finances in jeopardy. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You may be busy, but it will be important to take time out to nurture important relationships. Shopping will lead to successful purchases. Family encounters will bring emotions to the surface. Step back and focus on being patient and calm. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The craziness going on around you will distract and unnerve you. Do your best to avoid someone who puts you on the defensive. The busier you are, the easier it will be to put your personal life in perspective. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get in touch with an old friend. A change at home may come as a surprise, but once you have time to think about it, you will see it's in your best interest. Don't let added responsibilities get you down. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't be fooled by the help offered -- something will be wanted in return. Ask questions and you will discover how best to go about making your personal life better. Someone unique will improve your outlook and your future. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't buy useless items. Being practical and doing what's best for everyone will benefit your bank account and your future relationships. Offer simple solutions that will help bring you closer to the people you love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let confusion set in when it comes to money matters. Excessive purchases will not help you start the new year off on the right foot. Use your imagination and you can please everyone with your thoughtfulness. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't neglect work or the networking you can accomplish at industry events. You will meet someone who has exciting ideas and projects that interest you. Make plans to get together with this person in the new year. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are industrious and determined. You are powerful, competitive and intense. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4								8
	1	5	4		9	3	6	
	9		8		5		4	
		4		3		5		
3								6
		1		5		2		
	8		9		2		3	
	3	9	1		7	8	2	
2								7

Difficulty Level ★ 12/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	6	7	9	1	8	5	3
3	1	9	5	4	8	6	7	2
5	8	7	2	6	3	9	4	1
6	5	2	1	3	7	4	8	9
8	7	3	9	5	4	2	1	6
4	9	1	6	8	2	5	3	7
1	2	4	8	7	9	3	6	5
7	6	8	3	2	5	1	9	4
9	3	5	4	1	6	7	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RHINOVIRUS PREVENTION **Solution: 9 letters**

G	E	E	P	S	D	S	H	D	M	E	D	I	E	T
N	N	S	Z	L	N	T	Y	I	O	C	A	K	S	C
I	R	I	O	I	A	I	S	O	U	N	E	I	I	E
G	O	C	H	B	L	Y	M	V	T	A	R	S	C	T
G	B	K	Y	S	J	I	I	A	H	T	P	S	R	O
U	R	N	G	S	A	E	R	N	T	S	S	I	E	R
H	I	E	I	B	N	W	C	E	G	I	A	N	X	P
E	A	S	E	R	A	N	D	T	T	D	V	G	E	A
R	S	S	N	E	E	Z	E	N	S	S	E	M	Ⓑ	O
A	B	I	E	H	L	T	H	A	A	R	O	S	Ⓤ	S
H	A	B	U	R	C	S	C	P	M	H	T	W	Ⓖ	I
S	L	I	S	N	E	T	U	S	H	A	K	I	N	G
N	O	S	E	T	A	L	O	S	I	S	E	P	Y	T
Z	C	O	N	T	A	C	T	N	I	E	S	E	Y	E
R	S	E	I	D	E	M	E	R	U	S	O	P	X	E

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Abstain, Airborne, Avoid, Bath, Bug, Clean, Cold, Contact, Diet, Distance, Exercise, Exposure, Eyes, Germs, Hand Washing, Herbs, Home, Hugging, Hygiene, Isolate, Kissing, Labs, Mouth, Naps, Nose, Objects, Playing, Protect, Remedies, Risk, Scrub, Shaking, Share, Sickness, Sneeze, Soap, Spread, Sterilize, Touch, Toys, Type, Utensils, Vitamins, Wipe

Last Friday's Answer: Shilling

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Wild rally keeps Chargers in playoff hunt

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Philip Rivers looked at the 21-point deficit on the scoreboard at halftime and even he wondered whether the San Diego Chargers had it in them to come back. The season depended on it, so Rivers took charge.

He prevailed through a balky back and a sore chest to keep San Diego's slim playoff chances alive, rallying his team to tie it in the final minute and setting up Nick Novak's 40-yard field goal nearly 5 minutes into overtime in a 38-35 victory over the San Francisco 49ers on Saturday night.

"Obviously, an unbelievable finish," coach Mike McCoy said. "We had about as bad a first half as we could possibly play. ...You saw a lot of emotion on the sideline throughout that second half— the excitement, the energy, the way we play football."

Rivers found playmakers in Antonio Gates and Eddie Royal when two of San Diego's offensive stars were down with injuries.

He completed his fourth touchdown pass of the day with a tying 11-yard TD pass to Malcom Floyd with 29 seconds left in regulation after completing a pair of fourth-and-longs as the Chargers (9-6) forced overtime.

Phil Dawson's 60-yard field goal attempt for San Francisco as regulation ended fell way short. Quinton Patton then fumbled in overtime to set up San Diego's winning drive.

"What a comeback. It's one of the greatest I've been a part of, and it keeps us alive," Novak said. "To kick the game-winner, do-or-die kick ... loved being in that moment."

On a night nearly everything clicked for the home team until the waning moments, Rivers made plays without wide receiver Keenan Allen and running back Ryan Mathews.

He shined with the season on the line. The Chargers came in needing to win out and get some help after beginning the week tied with Kansas City and Buffalo, one game out of the final wild-card berth. San Diego ends the season at Kansas City next Sunday.

Rivers converted fourth-and-8 and fourth-and-10 on the key final San Diego drive of the fourth quarter.

"We just got going and fell into a rhythm," Rivers said. "At halftime, we didn't know if we could come all the way back, but we were going to fight. That's who we are."

The 49ers blew just their second game when leading by 21 or more at halftime and lost their fourth straight game under embattled coach Jim Harbaugh. They lost 42-41 to Minnesota on Oct. 24, 1965, after leading 35-14 at halftime.

Colin Kaepernick ran 90 yards for a touchdown and Frank Gore had a 52-yard touchdown run as the Niners (7-8) grabbed early momentum.

"Right now there's not much to say," Harbaugh said. "That's a tough one."

Rivers threw touchdown passes of 21 and 1 yard to Antonio Gates and another to Eddie Royal, but also was hurt by three interceptions. On one of those, Antoine Bethea had a 49-yard return for his first career touchdown. A defense minus recently released starting lineman Ray McDonald never let Rivers find a rhythm.

The 31-year-old Gore finished with 158 yards and he needs 38 yards in the final game next weekend against Arizona for a fourth consecutive 1,000-yard season and eighth in his 10 NFL seasons. His scoring run was his longest since a 64-yarder on Nov. 1, 2009, at Indianapolis. It also was the longest TD run allowed by San Diego since 2010 before Kaepernick topped it.

AP

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, right, fumbles the ball after being sacked by San Diego Chargers defensive tackle Ricardo Mathews (90) and outside linebacker Dwight Freeney (not pictured) during the third quarter of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014.

Gore had more yards in this game than in his previous four games combined, and New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez was in attendance wearing the running back's red No. 21 jersey.

Rookie Bruce Ellington caught an 8-yard touchdown pass from Kaepernick early in the second quarter that put the Niners up 21-0, then ran for a 1-yard score late in the half before leaving with a hamstring injury.

Rivers, 33 for 54 for 356 yards, sat out Wednesday's practice with chest and back injuries.

"We've got the best quarterback in the league," Floyd said. "We had faith in us."

Harbaugh, who is facing a constant swirl of speculation about his future - like a report alma mater Michigan has made him a six-year offer to coach the Wolverines - has said there's still plenty to play for, like a winning season despite the disappointment following three straight trips to the NFC championship game.

Four players sustained concussions or head injuries - 49ers safety Eric Reid and San Diego cornerback Shareece Wright with concussions and San Francisco cornerback Leon McFadden and linebacker Aldon being evaluated for head injuries.

Redskins 27, Eagles 24

In Philadelphia, the Eagles have proved themselves to be a mirage, a team that got away with its faults until it couldn't any longer. Leaders in the NFC East as recently as a week ago, they're now just about done in the playoff race, and they're in no position to argue that they deserve any better.

Penalties, missed field goals, two more turnovers by Mark Sanchez and an inability to keep track of former teammate DeSean Jackson turned into a 27-24 loss to the lowly Washington Redskins on Saturday night, the Eagles' third straight defeat and one that gives Dallas two chances to clinch the NFC East.

"We're currently minus-9 in the turnover margin, so us having nine wins is really impressive for that," said safety Malcolm Jenkins, echoing the mood of a locker room hit with a communal reality check. "And really we were on borrowed time playing that style of football. If we had run the table in December with that kind of football, it would have been surprising, and it's something we didn't fix."

Sanchez's interception with 1:31 remaining - his 13th turnover in seven games - led to Kai Forbath's winning 26-yard field goal with 5 seconds remaining as the Redskins (4-11) snapped a six-game losing streak.

The Eagles (9-6) will now be rooting for Indianapolis to beat the Cowboys (10-4) on Sunday. A Dallas win eliminates Philadelphia. A Dallas loss keeps a modicum of hope alive.

"I'm not going to throw a party and watch it," receiver Jeremy Maclin said. "I'm going to watch it at home."

The loss also knocked Philadelphia from the wild-card race and clinched a playoff berth for Detroit.

Sanchez set an Eagles record with 37 completions in 50 attempts for a career-high 374 yards with two touchdowns to Riley Cooper, and tight end Zach Ertz set a franchise game record with 15 catches. But Sanchez lost a fumble for the third time this season and threw his 10th interception to put the Eagles' NFL-leading turnover tally at 36.

Robert Griffin III, back from his recent benching after a season-ending neck injury to Colt McCoy, went 16 for 23 for 220 yards with one interception for the Redskins to win in his first complete game in 13 months. Griffin's only other win as a starter this season came when he was injured in the first quarter against Jacksonville in Week 2.

First-year coach Jay Gruden, who has frequently been critical of Griffin, gave a glowing assessment, saying RG3 "did an outstanding job of managing the football game."

"You would think a 3-11 football team would just quit," Griffin said. "And we're not."

From the Eagles' perspective, everything seemed to go wrong in pairs. Two wide-rights by rookie kicker Cody Parkey - doubling his number of misses this season - were converted into two 1-yard touchdown runs by Darrel Young.

One of those Washington scoring drives included roughing-the-passer penalties by Brandon Graham and Vinny Curry in a span of four plays. The other drive featured a 55-yard over-the-shoulder grab by Jackson, the second 50-plus Griffin-to-Jackson connection in the game.

"I missed kicks and we lost the game," said Parkey, who has been battling a groin injury in his kicking leg. "I don't think there's any words to really describe it. You let yourself down. You let your teammates down. The kicks had nothing to do with my groin."

Curry also had a roughing-the-passer call on the Redskins' winning drive. Earlier, a pass-interference call on Nate Allen in the end zone set up Young's second scoring run. Philadelphia was flagged 13 times for 102 yards.

Peavy, Giants agree to 2-year deal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—When Jake Peavy joined the San Francisco Giants midseason, he brought an energy to the mound that added a new dimension to their rotation.

Now, the Giants are keeping a key member of their World Series championship team, bringing back Peavy with hopes of another October run.

The right-hander agreed to a $24 million, two-year contract to stay with San Francisco, two people familiar with the negotiations said Friday. They spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the deal had not yet been announced.

Also on Friday night, the Giants completed a trade with the Miami Marlins to bring third baseman Casey McGehee to San Francisco. He will replace Pablo Sandoval, who signed last month with the Boston Red Sox.

The 32-year-old McGehee won NL comeback player of the year honors after hitting .287 with 29 doubles, four home runs and 76 RBIs for Miami following a season with the Rakuten Golden Eagles of Japan's Pacific League.

The Giants sent minor league right-handers Kendry Flores and Luis Castillo to Miami.

The Marlins acquired Martin Prado on Friday from the Yankees to become their likely third baseman, so they quickly struck a deal with the Giants. McGehee is from Santa Cruz and attended Fresno State.

Peavy and right-hander Sergio Romo were undergoing physicals Friday in Arizona, and San Francisco wasn't expected to make a formal announcement until early next week. Romo is set to receive a $15 million, two-year contract.

A three-time All-Star, Peavy provided a key lift and enthusiasm - not to mention fierce intensity - on the mound down the stretch as the wild-card Giants overcame their summer struggles.

Giants ace Madison Bumgarner and Tim Hudson benefited from Peavy's veteran presence. The three Southerners had a unique bond in their corner of the clubhouse.

Mavericks win Rondo's debut, top Spurs

DALLAS (AP)— The star of Rajon Rondo's debut with the Dallas Mavericks on Saturday night was Monta Ellis - the teammate whom the Mavericks hope helps Rondo form a lethal backcourt combination that will make them championship contenders.

Ellis equaled his season high with 38 points, including 11 during the final four minutes, as the Mavericks rallied late to beat the depleted San Antonio Spurs 99-93. Ellis broke a 93-93 tie with a driving basket with 1:48 to play to give Dallas the lead for good. He hit 15-of-23 from the field and made four steals.

The Spurs dropped their fourth straight, including three-overtime games on Wednesday and Friday.

" I felt it," Ellis said of his late surge. "It's in my blood. Those guys were tired from last night, and their defense let up, so we took advantage."

Rondo, the four-time All-Star who played his first eight-plus seasons with the Boston Celtics, scored six points on 3-for-11 shooting. Acquired Thursday in a multi-player trade, he had nine assists, seven rebounds.

"It was exciting," Rondo said. "Best part was we got the win."

Dirk Nowitzki, limited to 13 points on 4-of-14 shooting, said of his new teammate: "I actually think that he knows the plays better than some of our own guys."

Marco Belinelli led San Antonio with 21 points. Aron Baynes added a career-high 16 points.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich dressed 10 players and played only eight. Veterans Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili, who logged 90 and 71 minutes in the triple-overtime games, respectively, were left home. Danny Green and Tiago Splitter dressed but didn't play. They already were missing injured Tony Parker (hamstring) and Kawhi Leonard (hand) while Patty Mills (back) has yet to play this season.

"Giving up 25 points off turnovers on the road is not going to make it easy to win a game," Popovich said. "But I thought the effort and the play out of these guys was really spectacular."

Rondo missed his only two field-goal attempts of the opening half and scored his first points as a Maverick with 7:59 to play in the third quarter on a drive that ended with goaltending by Boris Diaw.

"Rondo's definitely a great player," the Spurs' Cory Joseph said. "He fills the stat sheet. He definitely can rebound. He can always pass the ball, so you've got to be aware on the weak side."

The Spurs used a 12-point run starting in the final minute of the opening quarter to break a 21-21 tie and lead going into the fourth quarter. The Mavericks trailed 47-42 at intermission having scored their fewest first-half points of the season.

AP

San Antonio Spurs forward Boris Diaw (33) looks to pass around Dallas Mavericks guard Rajon Rondo (9) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014, in Dallas.

Suns 99, Knicks 90

In New York, Eric Bledsoe had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Isaiah Thomas scored 22 points, and Phoenix beat New York.

Markieff Morris added 19 points for the Suns, who won their second straight after a six-game skid.

Thomas made a 3-pointer to open the fourth quarter, giving Phoenix the lead for good and triggering an 8-0 burst. Marcus Morris made another and Alex Lin tipped in a miss for a 75-68 lead, and the Knicks were playing catch-up from there.

Carmelo Anthony had 25 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks after missing a game with a sore left knee, but he was on the bench for a rest when the Suns surged into the lead. New York has lost four straight and is 5-24.

Trail Blazers 114, Pelicans 88

In New Orleans, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 27 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead Portland over New Orleans.

While Portland (22-6) was coming off a triple overtime win at San Antonio a night earlier, it was New Orleans that appeared tired. Including Anthony Davis' 3 of 14 shooting, the Pelicans (13-13) made only 35 percent of their shots. Davis finished with seven points and six rebounds.

Portland showed no signs of slowing down from the 15 extra minutes against the Spurs. The Trail Blazers shot 53 percent and forced 17 turnovers.

Blazers point guard Damian Lillard added 17 points and seven assists while one-time New Orleans center Chris Kaman had 16 points and six rebounds in a reserve role.

Austin Rivers led the Pelicans with 21 points.

Hornets 104, Jazz 86

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker had 20 points, Al Jefferson added 19 points and 10 rebounds and Charlotte beat Utah.

Jefferson nearly registered his third straight game with at least 20 points and 10 rebounds but left the game with six minutes remaining with a mild groin strain and did not return. Jefferson was available to play, but the Hornets had the game in hand and didn't want to risk further injury.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Hornets, who have won back-to-back games for only the third time this season.

The Hornets (8-19) had lost 10 straight games against the Jazz with their last win coming on Nov. 14, 2008.

Gordon Hayward had 14 points to lead Utah (8-20). Rudy Gobert had 11 points and 12 rebounds as the Jazz had its two-game winning streak snapped.

Hawks 104, Rockets 97

In Houston, Kyle Korver scored 22 points, including seven points late, to help Atlanta Hawks hold on to beat Houston.

The game was tied with three minutes left before Atlanta used a 7-0 run to make it 97-90 with just under a minute to go. Korver hit one of his four 3-pointers during that run.

Atlanta made seven free throws down the stretch, with four from Korver, to secure the victory.

The Hawks led by 16 points, but Houston used a big third quarter to tie it entering the fourth. The teams stayed close throughout the fourth quarter, with the lead changing or the game being tied several times before Atlanta put it away in the final minutes.

Dwight Howard had 19 points and 11 rebounds and James Harden added 18 points with a season-high 14 assists for the Rockets who lost their second straight game.

Nuggets 76, Pacers 73

In Denver, Danilo Gallinari scored 19 points, including a 3-pointer to spark a key fourth-quarter run, and Denver hung on to beat Indiana.

Ty Lawson added 15 points and 10 assists for the Nuggets, who won games on successive nights after losing six of seven coming into the back-to-back set.

David West had 19 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Pacers, who lost for the 10th time in 11 games. Indiana also dropped its sixth straight game in Denver.

Both teams were held to season lows in scoring with Indiana hitting just 30.7 percent of its shots from the field and Denver making 36.6 percent.

With 27.5 seconds remaining in the third quarter, C.J. Miles, who finished with 16 points, made a 3-pointer to even the score at 55-55 heading into the fourth quarter.

Clippers 106, Bucks 102

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul scored nine of his 27 points in the final 4:04 and Blake Griffin added 24, leading Los Angeles over Milwaukee.

Griffin, coming off back-to-back 30-point games against Indiana and Denver, picked up his third foul with 5:41 left in the half and the Clippers trailing 42-38. Griffin made a critical tip-in of Paul's missed 20-footer with 5 seconds to play. Milwaukee's Khris Middleton missed a desperation 3-pointer as time expired.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 18 points and nine rebounds. Jerryd Bayless and former Clipper Jared Dudley each had 16 points as the Bucks' bench outscored the Clippers' bench 59-23.

Trailing by nine with 5:24 left in the third quarter, the Clippers entered the fourth down 83-82 on 3-pointers by Paul, Jamal Crawford and J.J. Redick during a 3:15 span. Redick finished with 23 points.

SIDEBAR

Nets, Kings in talks for Williams trade

NEW YORK (AP)—The Brooklyn Nets and Sacramento Kings are discussing a deal centered on former All-Star guard Deron Williams, league sources said.

The Nets have been shopping their high-priced star players, and the Kings have been probing the market for an impact point guard.

No deal is imminent, but the talks are ongoing, sources told Yahoo Sports.

The talks have centered on sending the Nets point guard Darren Collison and forwards Derrick Williams and Jason Thompson as part of a multi-player package for Williams, league sources said.

Sacramento has significant interest with Williams, but a hurdle to a possible deal is the Kings' desire to have center Mason Plumlee included into the package, league sources said. Brooklyn has considered Plumlee a significant part of its future core.

The Kings have been thrilled with Collison, who has emerged as a strong leader and a popular teammate this season. There remains a reluctance for Sacramento to move him in a deal, sources said, but the Nets would need a point guard to replace Williams.

The combination of Williams' massive salary and declining health and production leave the Nets with little leverage to take back much more than spare parts for the one-time All-Star guard. Brooklyn is 10-15 and sitting ninth in the Eastern Conference.

Kings interim coach Tyrone Corbin and Williams have a solid relationship dating back to their several years together with the Utah Jazz. After consecutive seasons of ankle injuries limiting his effectiveness, Williams, 30, has played better this season – if not nearly back to his past All-Star level.

With the fragile nature of center Brook Lopez's chronic foot problems – as well as the organization's shopping of Lopez to teams in recent weeks – Plumlee becomes a more difficult young talent for the Nets to include into a trade. Essentially, the Kings would be looking for insurance that promises them productivity on the floor, if Williams becomes sidelined with injuries again.

The Nets' partnership with Williams has become increasingly fractured over the past two years, and the idea of a breakup has appeal for both sides, sources tell Yahoo.

Williams has two full years and $43 million-plus left on his contract through the end of the 2017 season. The Nets are motivated to shed salary and try to again reboot the franchise. Williams is averaging a career-low 15.6 points and 6.8 assists per game.

Tinian students, players participate in 3-day football clinic

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Football clinics were conducted on Tinian last week by professional soccer player and Pilipinas Dragons Football Club program head Nii Ayi.

Ayi, a sports scientist and licensed coach, hosted classroom interactions with local coaches and students at a Tinian private school. More than 50 members of the Tinian Premier Football Club also participated in the clinic last week.

"I had classroom interaction with one of the private schools on Tinian to introduce some of them to football," he told Saipan Tribune. "It was a great time with the kids and some were able to touch and kick a ball for the first time in their lives."

The three-day soccer clinic, in coordination with the Tinian Premier Football Club, also had participants from the island's public schools with Ayi interacting with elementary and middle school children.

"I was amazed with how the kids responded and cooperated with me," he said. Ayi added that although the purpose of his trip is to teach soccer, what he hopes to also instill in the youth he works with is "fun, joy, and love for the sport".

He described the skill of the young athletes as "impressive". The soccer pro also held a classroom discussion with local coaches to guide them on how to plan and organize their training sessions. The lecture also included information about the organization in tactical training for goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders and strikers.

"It was really an amazing and great experience with the Tinian Premier Football Club kids and their coaches," he said.

The soccer pro hopes that the CNMI and Guam football associations extend a helping hand to the TPFC as it lacks training outfits and sports equipment. Ayi pointed out that the TPFC is a non-governmental organization and is run volunteer coaches Philip and Arley Long.

"They are really doing all they can to help keep the kids out of trouble and off the streets and encourage them to play a beautiful game," he said.

THOMAS MANGLONA II

Nii Ayi speaks to elementary and middle school students on Tinian during a three-day clinic last week.

THOMAS MANGLONA II

Nii Ayi poses for a photo with Tinian elementary school students who took part in his three-day football clinic.

26 teams join Saipan Little League program

A total of 26 teams will play in the 2015 Saipan Little League Baseball , which is set to open with one Big League game on Jan. 15 at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Little League attracted the most number of teams with 13, while the Juniors and Big League divisions will have four squads each. Five teams will be contending for the Senior League crown.

Meanwhile, the Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. board will schedule another meeting later this month or early next year and invite Little League District Administrator Michael Borja to update him on their preparation for the 2015 season.

The SLLBI board will start the competition early to give All-Star teams a longer time to practice and prepare for the CNMI District and Asia-Pacific-Middle East regional tournaments.

This year's SLLBI board is headed by president Benjamin Jones Jr., secretary and player agent Piding Tenorio treasurer Malcolm Omar, safety officer Climaco Laniyo, and chief statistician AJ Murig. ***(Jon Perez)***

Mayweather, Pacquiao blamed for PPV drop

It's perhaps the elephant in the room, but former boxing champion turned promoter Oscar De La Hoya is blaming both Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao for the drop in boxing pay-per-view (PPV) numbers across the boxing landscape for their inability to make the fight which has been highly in-demand for years now.

In an interview with boxingscene.com, De La Hoya, who is the founder of Golden Boy Promotions, stated that both of the top pound-for-pound fighters are to blame with the falling PPV figures of late adding that the Mayweather vs. Pacquiao super fight needs to have for the health of not only PPV sales but of the sport itself.

"Absolutely. People are now fed up and they are tired. They are frustrated. If its not Manny Pacquiao and Mayweather who are going to fight, we are not going to buy pay-per-view. That's the fight that must happen for the sake of the sport," De La Hoya said in the article. "I don't care who wins. I just want to see it happen because it's going to be a great fight and it will attract more fans."

In the worst-case scenario that negotiations between Mayweather Jr. and Pacquiao fails once again, De La Hoya added that it's the sports fans will be frustrated again although the retired 41-year-old boxer believes boxing won't die and will eventually "reinvent itself at some point."

According to multiple reports, PPV numbers are down for all boxing fights in 2014 including the Mayweather-Maidana rematch, which drew less than a million. The Pacquiao vs. Chris Algieri fight in Macau draw only roughly 300,000 in the U.S. It's expected that other fighters' PPV numbers have failed to reach their respective targets as well.

As with other millions of boxing of fans, De La Hoya wants the Mayweather vs. Pacquiao fight to happen in 2015 even saying via a social media post on Twitter that he's willing to move the proposed Canelo Alvarez (Mexico) vs. Miguel Cotto (Puerto Rico) fight from the much-coveted date of May 2, 2015 during the Cinco de Mayo festivities.

The said development has further pushed the idea that the super fight between Mayweather (47-0-0, 26 KOs) and Pacquiao (56-5-2, 38 KOs) will finally happen. After his win against Chris Algieri in his last fight, Pacquiao has called out Mayweather publicly.

NMSA

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joyed a 68-59 spread heading into the final two minutes of the tightly-fought match.

However, NMASA fought back behind Peter Camacho, who scored 4 of the team's 9 points, including a pair of free throws off Ronnel Gamboa's foul with 4.8 seconds left on the clock. The charities knotted the count at 68-all and sent the match in overtime as the Feds failed to score at the other end.

The Feds had the chance to close the match in regulation, but Camacho stole the ball away from Hae Joon Park. The NMSA enforcer could have nailed the game-winning basket but time expired as he ran toward their court.

In overtime, Ezra Caro went to work for NMSA, scoring the team's last 6 points, including a reverse layup in the final 21 seconds of the game, 79-75. That turned out to be the final tally as the Feds failed to counter on the other end against NMSA's tight defense.

Mike Babauta, off a Leo Apelo missed jumper, grabbed the loose ball and just ran the clock down. Jubilation erupted at the NMSA bench when the buzzer sounded.

Ben Jones top-scored for NMSA with his 22 points and buried five 3-pointers, while Camacho scattered 14 markers and had 5 rebounds. Rangamar chipped in 11 points to go with his 3 feeds, 6 boards, and 1 steal.

Caro, who helped contain Feds big man Ken McCain, tallied 10 points, 2 assists, 3 rebounds, and 2 steals. Jacoby Winkfield and Mike Babauta combined for 10 markers, 13 rebounds, and 4 steals.

Apelo paced the Feds' losing cause with an all-around performance of 24 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, and a game-high 7 steals, while Gamboa backed him up with 22 markers, 3 caroms, 3 feeds, and 1 steal.

McCain, who put the Feds within two with his basket, 77-75, 1:54 left in the final quarter, made 13 points, grabbed 12 rebounds, had 2 assists, and blocked 4 shots. Juan Camacho contributed 12 markers, 11 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals.

Besides the fourth-quarter meltdown, the Feds also squandered an 11-point halftime lead as it could not shake off NMSA, which always found an answer to every run the former made.

NMSA 79–Jones 22, Camacho 14, Rangamar 11, Caro 10, Basa 6, Winkfield 6, Babauta 4, Sablan 4, Fitial 2.

Feds75–Apelo 24, Gamboa 22, McCain 13, Camacho 12, Park 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-17, 31-42, 54-53, 68-68, 79-75 (OT).

SUN

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three players with Jin setting up either Li and Kim. One of Jin's passes in the second half gave Sun Palace a good break, as Li received the leather to the right sideline. Three Matansa players teamed up in preventing Li from attacking with captain Amzad Hossain Khan deciding at the last minute to roll into the box with his two other teammates following Li. Li then kicked the ball and it hit Khan, who was unfortunately called for a handball. Sun Palace contended the ball hit Khan's back when he turned. However, the head umpire saw otherwise, saying when Khan turned and was hit by the ball, he also lifted up his right arm (above waist level).

Li was given the penalty kick after the Matansa infraction in the 66th minute and he connected the shot against goalie Moe Zaw with the ball rolling too fast the right corner post.

Li's penalty shot gave Sun Palace the insurance, while Matansa still could not find a way to score in the all-important match. The closes that Matansa could get was when Ahmed Titu got inside the left key of the penalty box and went for a cross, but his shot was a bit strong. Titu had two more opportunities to score, under the 15-minute mark when he was inside the box, facing Sun Palace goalie Kyu Jin Hong. However, Hong kept his ground and was quick on the ball. The two faced each other for the third time in the closing minutes with Hong again defeating Titu for the ball (near where the right corner kick is taken) and the latter accidentally kicking the former near the groin area. Hong grimaced in pain for a while, but shook it off to finish the match and complete the upset against the frustrated Matansa crew.

Meanwhile, Inter Godfather's and MP United Football Club fought for the Cup last night and results of their title game will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

MCS

From Page 28

ball player to take time to teach a group of kids some skills is amazing. I'm really glad that he came to the school," she said.

School coach Tomoko Shimizu added "it is great that he came to teach the students". She also said that Carlucci's visit serves as an inspiration for students to work hard on and off the court.

Trench Warz 18: Rock & Rumble

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ

Trench Tech's Jimmy Kaipat, right, bear hugs Jadrien "Bonbon" Camacho of Down2Scrap in their fight in the flyweight division of Trench Warz 18: Rock & Rumble held on Dec. 12 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Trench Tech's "Shiska" Bob Alvarez, left, tries to choke hold Eric "Gatti" Gatman of Guam Muay Thai.

Team Ultimate Martial Arts' Jose "Young Blood" Ramirez, right, attempts to punch Vince "Vinsanity" Pua of Team Marianas Elite.

Jones Langu, right, attempts to lift Team Zalaka's Allan "The Silver Buller" Aguon in their featherweight bout.

Team Marianas Elite's John Tudela, right, tries to keep his advantage against Jamal "Striker" Mresbang of Team Strikeforce.

Team Tinian's Paul Ayuyu delivers a series of elbows at the back of Trench Tech's Jordan "The Machine" Manglona.

Team Guam Muay Thais Rocky "Rock Star" Quichocho, right, sneaks in a leg kick on Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas' stomach.

Jonathan "Outlaw" Camacho of Team Down2Scrap and Bradlee Manalo of Team Zalaka try to outsmart each other.

Chonan MMA of Korea's Jae Woong Kim, right, falls down on his knees after being punched at the midsection by Frank "The Crank" Camacho.

Wild rally keeps Chargers in playoff hunt

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Sports

Mavericks win Rondo's debut, top Spurs

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NMSA rallies to clinch title

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association rallied back from a 9-point deficit in the fourth quarter and outlasted the Feds in overtime, 79-75, in their title match in the 2014 IT&E-DYS Inter-government Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMSA enjoyed a twice-to-beat advantage in the title showdown after sweeping the playoff round, including a 68-67 squeaker over the Feds on Dec. 15, to clinch the first finals berth and finished off the Feds early to win this year's championship.

The Feds, on the other hand, needed an 84-49 crushing of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to seal a title match with NMSA. The Frank Flores-mentored squad was then press to beat NMSA on Friday night to force a you-or-me showdown tonight and nearly got the job done before squandering a 9-point lead in the final 2:11 of the contest.

The Feds seemed headed to a knockout match when it en-

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JON PEREZ
Northern Marianas Sports Association members celebrate their title win after beating the Feds in overtime, 79-75, in the 2014 IT&-DYS Inter-government Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Sun Palace takes Plate championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sun Palace shut down Matansa Football Club, 2-0, to bag the Plate championship in the M-League yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Joon Kim and Guang Lin Li scored the two goals for Sun Palace, handing Matansa a sorry loss. Matansa was unbeaten in the fall season of M-League's Division 2 and continued its run in the Plate tournament after beating World Resort in the semifinals before being stunned by the second-running Sun Palace in yesterday's finale.

Kim put Sun Palace in the board in the 31st minute and his team kept the upper hand, as they dominated possession and had several more chances to score with Guang Zhi Jin setting up the former and Li. Jin usually stayed near midcourt and surveyed the pitcher before going for long passes, while Kim and Li sprinted to chase the ball and attack Matansa's defense.

While Sun Palace had a good job passing the ball around, Matansa did the opposite in the majority of the match, as some of its players hung on to the leather too long. The team also could not complete its attacks, claiming it was running against the wind (facing the road) in the first half.

Matansa players tried to sort things out in the second half, telling each other to pass the ball and be aggressive. However, the pep talk failed to produce the needed goals for Matansa, as it could not finish plays. The team had three corner kicks in the second half, but not even one made it close to the goal, while the two free kicks were hit way too far.

As for Sun Palace, it continued running its offense on

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Sun Palace's Jung Soo Choo, left, and MP United Football Club's Kamal Kamal kick the ball during the Cup finals of the M-League yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Volleyball pro holds clinic at MCS

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Former Association of Volleyball Professionals member and Marianas Cup veteran Jeff Carlucci conducted a free clinic for over 40 members of Mount Carmel School's volleyball team and he hopes to bring a similar program to other schools across the island.

In his inaugural sports clinic, the retired athlete taught student-athletes the fundamentals of spiking, serving, and returning a volleyball. Carlucci, who has been playing professional volleyball for over a decade, has visited the island several times before and recently decided to call Saipan his home with the hopes of giving back some of his knowledge to young student-athletes.

"I think if you are given a gift, then you should share it. Whether it is sports or not, why not try to give information to a young generation and pass it on?" the 6'6" volleyball pro said.

Carlucci noted that volleyball has grown on the island since his first visit in 2005.

"The skill level has increased," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "More people are involved. It is nice to see the interest level increased as well."

Mount Carmel sophomore Caitlin Tinney described the hour-long clinic as "amazing".

"For a professional volley-

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THOMAS MANGLONA II
Mount Carmel School student-athletes pose for a photo with volleyball pro Jeff Carlucci and their coach Tomoko Shimizu.